

June 13, 2009

Dear Martha

Thanks for your help and support

I am fine here, but Tehran is like a volcano ready to explode, a fire under ashes. The city is burning. People roaring. streets are filled with people's blood and shirts sre wet of our tears. It is unbelievable. Other cities, especially Tabriz, is also under fire.

Please do not write on my facebook. It is filtered and I cannot access it.

Today also Youtube is filtered. becasue people have been recording video cameras of the police's brutality and uploading it on youtube and now we cannot do that.

Besides sms system, cellular phones dont work. No one can use the cellular phones. We are being cut off from the rest of the world.

Dear Martha,

I am sorry I couldn't participate on your proxy project. I really wished but we are all politically active and my mind doesn't work anymore. even now, I am very tired, and disparate, but I dont give up. Iran is too dear for me to give it to fascists and liars.

I will write you later

say hi to Doug and Sophie

boos



June 14, 2009

Dear Green Martha!

Many thanks for your support. That is very kind and noble of you.

We are very very lonely here and when I see your support, that makes me feel that there are free spirits in this world who support our cause. I thank you for greening your photo. Feel free to change your photo anytime you like. I received your support and it was a positive energy.

Last night there was curfew imposed on tehran. It was declared that anyone who goes to the streets after midnight would be shot. But exactly at 12, we all went out. Cars poured into streets beeping non-stop. people also went into streets and many other people went up to the rooftop of their buildings and yelled:

Allahu Akbar

Live long Iran

Live long Mosavi.

Today Tehran is relatively calm but the situation is uncertain and anything is possible. Our main problem is that we cannot communicate with the leaders of the movement (Mosavi). Mosavi and several other reformist leaders are under house arrest and many other reformist activists are jailed. 150 people injured and 3 people dead (although there are reports that more than a dozen are dead).

We cannot communicate. All websites are filtered. Mobile and Sms system don't work. Sattellite channels are attacked and cannot be received properly. Today ahmadinejad's supporters came into streets (supported by government forces). They are trying to give the impression that Ahmadinejad is a winner and that the reformist movement is over. But they are damn wrong. This is just the beginning. and I am sure that we will win.

We are so lonely and helpless but hopeful. I am confident we are the winners.

Boos and thanks for your support



June 15, 2009

Dear Martha

I cannot find sufficient words to thank you, doug, charlie, and others for your huge support and expression of solidarity with us. In such lonely days, when I see your support, it fills me with energy and assures me that free spirits in the world are always connected. In Persian, we say "There is always a route from heart to heart" and I would like to offer my profound expressions of gratitude to you, doug, charlie, and others. I don't have doug's and charlie's email, but please tell them about my sincere gratitude. I am hugely touched, honored, and privileged to have known and seen extraordinary people like you and doug in my life.

Doug's message "the world is with you" was beautiful and now I understand that my huge love for you and doug is deeply rooted to your pure and original human values. again, please feel free to change your photo to normal color anytime you wish. The important issue was your support which I have well received and I do not want to be demanding anything more.

Well, Tonight there was again demonstrations. The Police is beating people and hurting them. But, the catastrophic issue is that the police is standing in front of hospitals and anyone who is injured is immediately arrested and not allowed into hospital. So, we are treating the injured at our homes and in the narrow alleys away from the eyes of the police. We cannot take the injured to hospitals. Today I treated a man on my roof top. His stomach was torn and I didn't know how to treat it but just cleaned it with hygienic materials.

Yesterday, I rescued a girl from the hand of police but her head was broken and we had to call a doctor to treat her in the street. Tomorrow would be a busy day. There would be massive demonstrations in city centre and the police chief has said that it will shoot the demonstrators but we are committed to our program. Don't worry Martha, I am acting brave, but very careful.

Anyways, here internet connections have been slowed down by the gov. and it takes me a long time to even send an email. I have several photos but the speed of the internet is so slow that it cannot be uploaded.

Many Kisses for you and hugs for Doug and thanks to Charlie



June 16, 2009

Dear Martha!

Thanks for the news clips you send me. It is a relief to know that the world is hearing us. There were about 4 million people in yesterday's demonstration. Ahmadinejad has said that "the demonstrators are like 'hooligans' and some 'pieces of dust' which could be wiped off." Yesterday we showed him 4 million 'pieces of dust' and many more million people in other cities. But unfortunately, they killed 7 people yesterday and also attacked the dormitory in the university of tehran and killed 8 people (2 boys and 6 girls) and arrested more than 100 students.

Today, we have planned another mass demonstration. Today, we will all dress in Black (as a mourning sign with the victims) and of course we will bring along our Green headbands. I took some photos but cannot upload it. Today I am using a filterbreaker and just for few minutes I was able to go to ghalamnews.com website. It is filtered again now. This is a website monitored by the government, but strangely, it has published a few photos of yesterday's demonstrations. (seems there is a pro-mosavi guy amongst them!!!!). You can take a look on these links and show it to doug too. (I wrote to doug yesterday and thanked him for his solidarity)

<http://www.ghalamnews.ir/news-21136.aspx>

<http://www.ghalamnews.ir/news-21137.aspx>

Kisses.

Hope you had a nice trip



June 20, 2009

Dear Martha,

Thanks for everything. don't know how to thank you... Thank charlie again and feel free to show my emails to him and feel free to publish it anywhere (without my name)... The internet speed is sow low here and it takes me about more than one hour to send you a short email. So, I cannot write to everyone. I wanted to thank N. for his message on my facebook but due to the low speed of internet, I cannot send more than 2 emails per day. so, if you have time, send him a short note and thank him on my behalf...

Today we are having 'A SILENT GREEN MARCH' in the city centre. All dressed in black with green signs marching in the city but in silence and without slogans. Yesterday, it was also a silent march (the one i did not attend). It seems silent marchs are more effective and people get more emotionally involved with the movement.No one talks. All silent. people just whisper to each other and after a few minutes one sees that most of people start crying (my friend told me this about yesterday, today I am gonna see it myself).

They have so far killed 34 people (20 in Tehran and the rest in Tabriz, Shiraz, Esfehan, and Ahvaz). The criminals are government armed militia called "Basiji" (revolutionary volunteers). They are dressed like normal people without any uniform. It is difficult to recognize them. They come into the crowd and all of a sudden hit someone with knife, chain, electrical shockes, and other cold weapons. Also, they go to top of buildings and shoot the crowd with their guns (that is how they killed seven people two days ago). In yesterday's silent march, the police seemed to be emotionally affected and acted a bit more lenient, but the bassiji people have no feelings and keep harming people. They have caused a lot of damage so far to people's properties.

will write to again
Thanks again martha
Boos\

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Handwritten text on a white page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is dense and appears to be a list or a series of entries, possibly related to a collection or inventory. Some words are difficult to decipher due to the cursive and fading, but some legible words include "No. 1", "No. 2", "No. 3", "No. 4", "No. 5", "No. 6", "No. 7", "No. 8", "No. 9", "No. 10", "No. 11", "No. 12", "No. 13", "No. 14", "No. 15", "No. 16", "No. 17", "No. 18", "No. 19", "No. 20", "No. 21", "No. 22", "No. 23", "No. 24", "No. 25", "No. 26", "No. 27", "No. 28", "No. 29", "No. 30", "No. 31", "No. 32", "No. 33", "No. 34", "No. 35", "No. 36", "No. 37", "No. 38", "No. 39", "No. 40", "No. 41", "No. 42", "No. 43", "No. 44", "No. 45", "No. 46", "No. 47", "No. 48", "No. 49", "No. 50".

June 19, 2009

Dear Martha!

Thanks for your beautiful initiative and your green spirit. These days, I am often tired and emotional and my mind does not work properly. But your brilliant idea is a green gate from which a lonely voice from tehran could be heard. thanks again. Yesterday, the supreme leader of iran offered his unconditional support for ahmadinejad and said that the election was fair!!!!!!! He openly threatened the public and said that people shall bear the "consequences" if they come to the streets again. he also spoke about basij (government militia) and gave them the permission to oppress the people in the streets!!!

But we stand resilient. Last night, people went up to the roof tops of their buildings and shouted "Allahu Akbar"(God is great), and "Zende baad Mosavi" (long live Mosavi) and "marg bar dictator" (death to dictator). People's voices were louder, clearer, and more resilient than ever. All Tehran was shaking, trembling, yet roaring. Tehran was like a fatigue and injured lion; roaring out of pain and pride. But lion is always a lion. Always proud, strong, and defiant.

Today, and in direct defiance of yesterday's speech, there would be another mass demonstration in Tehran. There are news that the police and the basij have been armed and waiting for people. Due to yesterday's speech, it is predicted that today they would be planning for a huge manslaughter. But today is the crucial day. We will go to the streets again and say that Iran is not a place for heys and foxes. Iran is the land of lions. I know that today's demonstrations will be bloody and lots and lots will be killed. But every drop of blood of our martyrs will make us more committed to our green cause.

I have not seen or read anywhere else about people who have demonstrated in such 'civilized' way. We are unarmed, with black shirts and green bands. We do not even chant anymore, We are silent. our demonstrations are 'green silent marches' and all we want is our vote back. We will go till the end of this road.

kisses



June 20, 2009

Dear Martha. I am fine. But two of my friends are badly injured. But we cannot take them to any hospital because the basij (gov. militia) have taken over hospitals and any injured person (even if they are close to death) are arrested and taken away. My friends have severe injuries on their head. Their condition is critical and I do not know what should I do. My mind does not work and my friends are vanishing before my eyes.

Yesterday was a manslaughter. They had promised us they will kill with no mercy and they carried out their promise. Yesterday was a day that cannot be forgotten. I saw some scenes that I cannot stop thinking about. The basij killing people with live rounds and gun shots, pouring boiled water on people, and beating people to death with clubs and batons. I saw a basiji guy beating a pregnant woman to death, continuously kicking her stomach, she was screaming "My baby, my baby". My friends attacked the basiji guy and beat him and saved the woman. All her body covered in blood. I tried to give her hope by saying that her baby is alive and that he will become as brave as his mother. But she was screaming non stop saying that if her baby is alive, then why doesn't he move! She lost conscious and my friend took her away in his car.

I saw several dead bodies and the streets were filled in blood. Yesterday, we were supposed to all gather in the 'revolution square' but the police had ringed the area and we could not reach there. The police used live rounds and any moving object was shot, but still a few thousand boys and girls made it to the square and clashed with the police. There are reports that yesterday about 200 people were shot and dead in the revolution square but no one knows about the exact number because reporters are not allowed to the clash scenes. I could not go there but I heard constant gun shots coming from the revolution square. But yesterday other streets, alleys, and squares were scenes of clash. We broke the false glory of the government and we will remain defiant and continue this road untill we gain victory. Yesterday, despite all the dangers, Mosavi himself came into the 'freedom square' and amongst his supporters and said that he will stay next to people till the end and asked his supporters not to give up on Iran. finally I have seen a true leader in Iran. One who is brave and strong and rooted in principles. It is such a good feeling to like your leader; a feeling I am experiencing for the first time in my life.

Dear Martha, I am still in shock and cannot write more now. But I know that the blood that was

spilled yesterday on the streets will not be wasted and we will win at the end. I have seen brave girls and boys on the streets as firm and confident as a mountain, and I was just a little witness to their braveness and sacrifices. I could not do anything but to watch and admire. I have a lot to learn. I felt so humble when I saw a young unarmed girl attacking the basij guy who was heavily armed. And, with her determination, she was able to kick him down from his motorcycle. I did nothing. I just watched. My friends helped a few injured people and got their head broken but I was in shock and constantly asking myself: "who am I?"

kisses martha, I will write later. kisses



June 21, 2009

Dear Martha. Thanks again and hereby I would also like to thank Rafael, Fredrick, and all other people who commented and expressed their solidarity. We have taken our two injured friends to a hospital in Karaj (a city 50km west of tehran) and were able to enter the hospital. They are both injured and have a few bones of their skull broken, but fortunately, their brain is intact and the damage is not permanent. They need to stay for at least four weeks under treatment.

Today, the city is just silent. After yesterday's massacre, every one is shocked and people do not talk anymore. It is hard to digest the crime committed yesterday. The city is all mute. In the morning people headed to their work, but we all know that the game is not over and waiting for the next scenario. Up until yesterday, people were peaceful in their demonstrations. Although the basij had killed 34 people, yet people remained tolerant. But killing about 200 people in one single evening is not something to be patient about. Most of the victims of yesterday were women and girls. many injured people have gone inside foreign embassies because they cannot be treated elsewhere.

Anger is growing. As french say: ' la haine apporte la haine' (hatred brings hatred). I was hearing people chanting yesterday: "I will kill, I will kill, those who killed my brother". Eyes have seen the blood, hands have touched it, and its smell has filled the space. Revenge is inevitable. And I am worried about it. No one knows what is next after today's deadly silence. Mosavi has asked people to overcome their anger and fear and continue their protest with focus and determination.

We all hate the Iranian police and basij now, more than ever. Yesterday they prevented us from making a big rally and split us into smaller groups so that they could more easily kill and oppress. But Mosavi has asked us to forgive them and do not take revenge and focus on the goals of the movement (freedom, rule of law, and elimination of fascism) and do not waste our energy on revenge. How could that be possible? How could we forgive those who killed our brothers? Maybe we are too tired and emotional, but overcoming this huge rage in our hearts is much more difficult than fighting in the streets. The real fight is within us.



June 22, 2009

Dear Martha,

Thanks again for everything and wish you a 'bon voyage' to Barcelona. I do not know anything about Mosavi and his wife being arrested and people in the street have not heard anything like that either. Maybe it is just a rumor. Iranian state TV has become the centre of lies and rumors these days. They said that in Saturday's clashes only 17 people were dead!! (I myself saw more than 10 dead bodies in the streets and there are so many other victims in the revolution square to whom no one has access). State TV has also said that a mosque in tehran and the mausoleum of Khomeini has been attacked by a suicide bomber!! These are all flat lies. The mosque and mausoleum are intact and no one attacked them.

They are trying to spread rumors to downplay the demonstrations and give the impression that the demonstrators are organized by terrorist groups. These are all lies. And anyway, suicide bombing does not exist in our culture. Ever since the scandalous elections, the state TV is showing comedy movies all the time (charlie chaplin, Jerry Lewis, Laurel and Hardy, even cartoons like Tom & Jerry). People are dying in the streets and they are showing tom and jerry! They want to ignore and mock us. But as Mhatma Ghandi once said: "First they ignore you, then they mock you, then they fight you, but at the end, you will win!"

Yesterday's deadly silence was finally broken at 10:00 pm when people went to the roof tops again and chanted "God is Great, Long live Mosavi, death to dictator". Last night people's voices were louder and more organized than ever. We have made up our minds. We will win. We don't want violence and continue our protest in civil manners. Today, we have decided to come to the streets between 4 and 6. Those who have cars will turn on the lights for two hours as a sign of protest and those who do not have cars have bought black candles with Green ribbons. They will light the candles and silently and peacefully march in the streets. (Silent Green Candle March). The nation is going through extreme emotions; rage, hatred, love, pride, sorrow, shock, and... It is difficult to know how does one feel at any given moment, but at these hard times, we need to remain coordinated and united with Mosavi. He has asked us to "disappoint those who intend to make us angry and continue the protests peacefully and remain hopeful".

Dear Martha, you mentioned a footage of a young girl dying in the demonstrations. I saw this footage on someone's mobile phone in the street today. And it is heartbreaking. They say she was called 'Neda' (Neda means 'unheard voice' in persian) and that she was a student at Tehran University. She vanished before her father's eyes. She was shot by a sniper. She died, but with her death, she made her voice heard. We swear to her blood, we will go till the end and we will win. We wont allow her blood to be wasted.

Kisses again and have a nice time in bcn.

June 23, 2009

Dear Martha. Thanks again for everything. Also I extend my most profound thanks to Andi and Catherine for their inspiring comments.

Well, the situation is getting worse and worse everyday. It has become harder and harder to communicate and organize rallies. They have arrested more than 500 people who used to organize the demonstrations and who were the link between Mosavi and supporters. Also, more than 50 major figures of the reformist movement have been arrested and are under the most severe tortures. The government is trying to force them to confess under torture that the green movement is a conspiracy led by US and Britain. But they have resisted so far and made no false confessions. more than 70 Journalists have been kidnapped and may never be found again. No one knows where they are. All reformist newspapers have been closed. Powerful clerics and ayatollahs in Iran have not expressed their support for people!!!! Mosavi has become very lonely and it has become extremely difficult to communicate with him. yesterday, there was a rally in the city centre but it was severely oppressed before it could hold up. This time the revolutionary guards attacked the people. No one knows about the casualties, but eye witnesses have seen at least 15 dead bodies. The armed forces in Iran are divided into four parts:

1-Urban Gaurd (Police)

2-Basij (Government paramilitaries)

3-The Army (they rarely come to city and are often stationed at borders)

4-The Revolutionary Guards (who are the most savage and brutal of all. So far, we had been dealing with Police and Basij, but since yesterday, the Revolutionary guards have come to streets to oppress any protest "in a revolutionary manner". They are even stronger than army and have navy, land , and air forces. They are in charge of training terrorist groups such as Hamas abroad. Their main duty is to gourd the regime. Ahmadinejad used to be a member of revolutionary Gaurds when he was young.)

It has become very dangerous to rally and even silent green marches are brutally oppressed. The government seems to be in control these days. The people and Mosavi are very very lonely. The nation and Mosavi only have each other and nothing else! We were expecting US and west to help

us with boycotting ahmadinejad but, instead they remained silent. And with their silence, they are supporting Ahmadinejad. Even US has said that it will invite Iranian diplomats to July 4th Ceremony!!! These diplomats are representatives of this illegitimate government and Obama wants to negotiate with Ahmadinejad!! (We believe that US administration is also guilty in all this process and that Obama's name would be mentioned with disgrace in history books).

The nation is getting suffocated, voices are silenced, pens broken, and any heart that beats for Iran's freedom is shot. But there remains a bit of hope and passionate relation between the nation and its leader. Every night, and at 10 pm, all Tehran shouts : "Allahu akbar, Long live Mosavi, and death to dictator". The revolutionary guards are patrolling the city with helicopters at night and when they see people chanting on roof tops, they report it to basij and the basij attacks and detains the people and damages all their properties. So, since last night, people remain at their homes, but they open the window at 10 pm, and all shout "Allahu akbar, Long live Mosavi, and death to dictator".

Eyes are tearful for Iran and its brave daughter 'Neda' who died before the eyes of her father and her fiance. But what makes us remain hopeful, is that this land, Iran, has touched Neda's blood and any land that touches Neda's blood, will never succumb to fascism and that freedom and victory will arrive.





June 24, 2009

Dear Green Ambassador. I am touched and honored by all beautiful comments of my dear friends such as Armando, Rafael, Irene, and Armando is right. This voice was born a couple years ago and Armando and Rafael and all other friends played such crucial role to shape this voice and make it ready to become a 'call for freedom'. So, although you guys are not physically present here, yet all this is the fruit of a tree you watered before.

Tomorrow might be a crucial day martha. Mehhdhi Karubi (another reformist candidate who has now joined Mosavi) has called for a national mourning day for our at least 250 martyrs so far (no one knows the exact number). The revolutionary guards have warned us, but we are defiant and will go to the streets with black shirts, green ribbons, and candles to mourn for Neda and all other martyrs. Friday, there would be friday prayers and again, some ayatollah will repeat his threats to the people, but we need to show our unity one day before the friday prayers. This time we shall threaten them first with our civil resistance.

The authorities had taken Neda's body and did not give it to her family. Once Neda's father asked for her body, the government asked for "the BULLET FEE"!! Meaning that Neda's father has to pay the price of the bullet by which his daughter was killed before getting her body!!!! This is heartbreaking. Are these human beings? How savage one could be to ask for bullet fee? And then, how could other countries decide to negotiate with a government who charges the victim's family with bullet fee?! Neda's father payed 3000 dollars to get her daughter's body. The Basij attacked her funeral and dispersed all who were attending! But Neda has become the symbol of our nation. She reminds me of the painting 'la liberte guidant le peuple' (by Delacroix) and once we gain victory and our minds and bodies get the chance to have a bit of rest, we shall produce the most beautiful works of art for Neda. If Basij ruined her funeral yesterday, tomorrow, tens of thousands will mourn for Neda in Tehran's streets.

There are riots in other cities as well (Shiraz, Tabriz, Kermanshah, ...) and some smaller cities. There are no reporters in those cities and in some cases, people do not even have access to internet. And there are many casualties there as well, but again, no one knows the exact number.

I was hoping that with our resistance, the support of the west, and powerful clerics and merchants in Iran, we could have overthrown this fascist very soon, but given the recent situation, I guess there is massive politics happening behind the scenes and we need to remain alert and focused. Braveness is not sufficient. We need to be brave and smart. Shouldn't act hurriedly and should save energy for the right time. It has been a couple days we have not heard of Mosavi and the city seems calmer, but this is a calm before a hurricane. Once people's hurricane arrives, then even the revolutionary guards cannot withstand it.

My heart is beating fast, I am worried and mournful, but there, at the bottom of my heart, I can feel the presence of a light. This is the light of freedom. With a bit of patience and unity with our leadership, this light of freedom will come to surface and shine all through Iran. I hope that day comes soon.



June 25, 2009

Dear Martha,

I heard that US has withdrawn its invitation of the Iranian diplomats for July 4th ceremony. That is great news! It helps us because it puts pressure on the government and isolates it.

Yesterday, up until 5 o'clock it was relatively calm, but at 5, my friends told me that there are severe clashes in front of the Iranian Parliament at 'Baharestan Square'. This rally was not planned before and I was not aware of it (as you know, it is getting very hard to communicate), but it seems that about 10,000 protestors gathered in front of parliament and demonstrated peacefully. But all of a sudden, a large number of Basij militia came out of a mosque nearby and attacked people. They carried guns and AXES! Can you believe it?? They attacked people with axes while cursing them. Meanwhile, it seems that more and more people came to Baharestan from adjacent streets (Lalehzar, and Saadi). My friend heard gunshots from Lalehzar Street and he heard that the Basij were throwing people from the 'Saadi' bridge to the ground. Shop owners in the area tried to bring people into their shops but basij attacked the shops and burnt all their properties. My friend said that people, especially women were brutally beaten. No one knows about the exact number of casualties yesterday, but given the gunshots, axes, and throwing people from the bridge, the death toll should be very high. Today, we were supposed to mourn for Neda in the streets, but due to yesterday's clashes, today the streets are filled with revolutionary guards and it would be too dangerous to rally today. The opposition has canceled today's rally and postponed it to next week. But next week, the rally will probably be held at Tehran cemetery. It seems that it is a good strategy of opposition leaders to announce rallies and then postpone them. This way, the government forces are always kept in worry and it makes them frustrated and tired. Mosavi and his wife are under house arrest, and very hard to be accessed but another reformist candidate (Mehdi Karubi) has become more active in organizing rallies. Yesterday, about 70 university professors who were intending to go to Mosavi's house were arrested and jailed. Also, all the journalists of Mosavi's newspaper (Kalameye Sabz=Green word) are jailed.

I guess you know about the football players. Last week, Iranian national football team had a match in Seol, South Korea. And during the match, the Iranian football players (including the captain) put on Green bands on their hands as a sign of solidarity with Mosavi and nation. How-

ever, once they returned home, they were arrested and jailed. Their passport was confiscated. yesterday they were released but all of them forced to retire from football!!

Dear Martha, the momentum is building up and people's defiance against the government is growing. The resistance is getting brutally oppressed, but after each oppression, it stands up firmer and more resolute. I can see the victory approaching.

By the way dear Martha, when you reply to my emails, please delete my text. This way is safer. Wish you a wonderful journey. Say hi to Doug and Sophie and all other friends in bcn. I send you a very big kiss my dear friend.

June 27, 2009

Dear Martha, today the city seems to be very nervous. Yesterday in friday prayers, the ayatollah recommended the armed forces " to kill and wipe off all opponents and demonstrators without any sense of mercy or guilt"! and that " by eliminating these demonstrators, you are serving the God"!!! So, the city has become like a military camp, soldiers and revolutionary guards snaking in the city. There are some tanks at certain streets as if there is a war going on, but the fact is that our demonstrations are all peaceful and with the presence of all these armed forces, the option of peaceful rallies seems unwise and we have to think of other ways to show our protest.

We thought of strikes. There are some teachers, students, doctors, and nurses who have started a strike. They have gone inside some mosques and declared that they would not come out unless Ahmadinejad resigns. Doctors and nurses are under huge pressure. A large number of the wounded people of the last weeks clashes have died. But the government is forcing the doctors to say that these deaths are 'natural' and not due to gunshots. The doctors have refused saying that 'lying is against their oath'. So, some doctors and nurses have been arrested, but some others have started a strike in the mosques as I mentioned. The fact is that because of Iran's social demography, strikes would not be effective unless wealthy merchants in the 'bazaar' close the bazaar and join the strike. But these merchants are businessman! They would not do anything unless they are sure of their benefit at the end!! And at these uncertain times, it seems that their calculations have not convinced them to go on strike yet. For them, money is more important than freedom. The green movement has been formed by the middle class in Iran, or the so called 'Iranian Bourgeoisie' who consist of educated youth and social and political activists and who consist the main bulk of the population.

I think that the western governments need to think more seriously about the situation in Iran. I understand that the people living in europe and US have strongly expressed their support and solidarity with us and we are thankful for that, but the governments need to act more firmly. I have heard some statements from western heads of states. It does not seem to be consistent. One day they condemn the violence in Iran, and the other day they mention that they want to carry on with their negotiations with this illegitimate government. One day, they say they are "concerned" about the situation in Iran, and the other day they say that they do not want "to middle" in Iran's internal affairs! This uncertainty and caution is not helpful. Thinking that what

is taking place right now in Iran is an 'internal affair' is a huge mistake. The recent events in Iran is of global importance and Ahmadinejad is a threat to the entire world. The Iranians are trying to convey this message to the world by sending all the footages and information to the west, not to buy their sympathy, but to inform them about a great threat. The fact is that Ahmadinejad is 'hitler revisited'. That is what the reformist candidate (Mehdi Karubi) told him too. You may not know this, but in his speeches, Ahmadinejad always speaks of "Ruling the World" and that "the world expects me (Ahmadinejad) to offer a model of governance", and "Iran cannot live happily unless we start shaping the world". Ahmadinejad suffers severe personality disorders and illusions, but these are exactly what Hitler suffered from. If you look closely around the world, you can see Ahmadinejad trying to expand his evil intentions:

- 1-He is following his nuclear program to produce nuclear weapon, because he is ideologically committed to "wipe of Israel from the face of the map" as he clearly mentioned once.
 - 2-He has made strong ties with China and Russia (two other dictatorships) so that they could protect him from UN sanctions.
 - 3-He has made strong connections with north korea and is benefiting from N.Korea's nuclear program.
 - 4-The revolutionary guards have been training terrorist groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and Jihad in the region.
 - 5- The revolutionary guards are the main source of all the explosions in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - 6- Ahmadinejad had made strong ties with latin american countries such as Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and ... Hugo Chavez has traveled about ten times to Iran in the past four years! Who do you think has taught Hugo Chavez to resort to fraud in venezuela's elections and make his presidency permanent?? (no wonder that Chavez was the first president to congratulate Ahmadinejad). The flights from tehran to caracas are filled with revolutionary guards who have made their own bases in latin america and are training radical groups in the forests so that they "would be ready for the war with US"! Recently, Brazil is also getting closer to Ahmadinejad!!
 - 7-Ahmadinejad has created complex terrorist networks in Europe and US who might not be visible now, but if Ahmadinejad stays, they are a huge threat for global security
- All these and so many other suspicious movements is what makes Ahmadinejad a 'hitler revisited'. He is a dangerous mind. Take him seriously! In just four years, he has made a humiliated, disparate, and angry nation out of iranians (who are by nature, happy, cheerful, proud, and active).

What the iranian nation is fighting for today is not merely for the freedom of Iran. Iranians are fighting in the front lines of the battle for global peace and security.

So, let the western governments know that they need to support the Iranian nation now, not out of sympathy or as a humanitarian work, but for their own interest (the interest of the western world). They need to help us now before its too late, otherwise, another world war might be approaching. I am not exaggerating. Take these words seriously.

I also have to say that even four years ago, Ahmadinejad did not win the elections. Four years ago, he took power by another mass fraud! But then, we did not have any leader. All the defeated candidates acted cowardly and accepted their defeat under obvious fraud. But this time, we have a strong leader who is brave and who stood up to defend people's rights. For many people, Mir Hussein Mosavi might not be a very liberal person (I personally had some criticism to his economic programs), but his braveness to stand up to the face of tyranny has made him the most beloved leader in Iran's contemporary history.

June 28, 2009

Dear Martha,

You asked me why the basij and revolutionary guards oppress the women more brutally and their aggression is more focused on women?

Well, I think there are two reasons behind that:

1-Women and girls were pioneers in the formation of the green movement. As I mentioned before, this green movement was created by the Iranian middle class (bourgeoisie) who are mainly educated youth and social and political activists which are the main bulk of Iranian population (note that 70% of Iran's population are under 30 years old!). Also, note that for the past 15 years, 65% of the entire university students in Iran are girls and women. Therefore, almost 65% of the educated youth and activists in Iran are women and girls. These women have become increasingly active during the last decade and before this presidential elections, they formed the green movement in order to support Mosavi and his reformist programs. As Mosavi mentioned once, he does not really lead anyone, but he follows the will of the nation. And the color 'Green' was not Mosavi's idea. Some youth (especially women) suggested this color and that is why green dress had become fashionable during the last few months prior to the elections. This 'Green color' marked Mosavi's supporters in the streets and made it so obvious that if the election is legit and clean, then Mosavi would definitely win the elections. Before the elections, you just needed to take a short walk in the streets and it was clearly obvious that most of the people who campaigned for Mosavi in the streets were young girls. They organized rallies, distributed Cds, tapes, flyers, and brochures about Mosavi. The 50 km human chain which in support of Mosavi before the elections were mainly formed by women. Mosavi's wife (Zahra Rahnavard who is a professor and an artist and sculptor) also played important role in encouraging the women to campaign for Mosavi.

Therefore, the basij and government forces are extremely angry with women and girls. Had women not been active before the elections, Mosavi might not have become so popular. The government is in deep trouble now because of women's activities before the elections. Thus, now they are taking revenge.



2- The second reason is because of the mentality and the ideology of government forces. They believe that women should be treated as second degree citizens and should not be given equal rights as men. For them, women should stay at home and offer services to men (cook, wash, clean, offer sex, ...) But women (and also men) have constantly tried to defy that and gain their rights in social issues. However, this was the first time after the islamic revolution that women became directly involved with politics and became politically active in such a large scale. I think this is intolerable for government forces and with directing their aggression towards women, they are punishing them for their political activities.

Again, I thank you for everything and send you a big big big boos.



June 30, 2009

Dear Martha, thanks again and also many thanks to my lovely teacher Suzanne whose computer you are borrowing to put up my letters.

Well, in the past two days, three things have made me very sad and upset.

1-I saw in the TV that there are some people dancing in Harlem, NY to 'mourn' for Michael Jackson's death. Of course I am also sorry for his death, but what made me very sorrowful, is that we all live in the same planet; yet in one spot of this sphere, people have the freedom to even 'dance' as a sign of mourning for someone. But, in another spot, Neda's family have not even had the chance to mourn for their daughter and her funeral was ruined by basij!! Neda's home in western Tehran had become like a shrine. People going there in groups to pay their condolences to her family. This has made the basij fearful, and yesterday, they took over Neda's house and her family was moved (by force) to another place which remains 'confidential'! We often speak of Neda, but there are about 250 more victims whose names do not get mentioned and their stories might be as heartbreaking as Neda's.

2- Yesterday there was a peaceful rally in Northern Tehran and thousands and thousands had gathered to protest peacefully. Amongst the demonstrators, there was a very large community of artists (directors, actors, painters, poets, ...). In our culture, artists have a very high place and we thought that by the presence of these artists in the rally, the government forces would not oppress the rally. But again, the basij attacked and wounded so many people (no one died though), and arrested so many artists! There is a old persian song in which Iran is described as "the spring land of all arts" (Iranians often exaggerate when they want to admire their homeland!). I asked myself what has happened in this land which is supposed to be the spring of arts, that the artists are beaten and arrested only and only because they are demanding their vote in a peaceful way?

3- The third thing that made me sad was US administration's hypocritical attitude towards events in the world. I heard that in Honduras, the head of the army has removed the president by a coup. And then, just after a few hours, President Obama and secretary Clinton, RUSHED in condemning the coup and said that the new state in Honduras is "illegal". I wonder why can't Obama

and Clinton use the same term -"illegal"- to describe Ahmadinejad's government here????!!!! We have been waiting for more than two weeks and have not received any 'effective' word of support from US administration yet! What happened in Iran is also a coup. People chose Mosavi as their president, but the government resorted to fraud; killing, oppressing, torturing, kidnapping, and arresting the opponents! This is dictatorship under the skin of democracy! Ahmadinejad's fascist government has used a democratic tool -the election- to execute his coup. Barak Obama needs to know that the existing generation in Iran is a golden generation. There has been about five decades of mistrust between Iran and US gov. now, yet this generation is ready for reconciliation. During the election campaign, there were posters of Mosavi with a slogan underneath saying: "A New Greeting to the World". and many youth were hopeful that Iran-US relations would be re-established after three decades. Barak Obama would be making a huge mistake if he ever decides to negotiate with ahmadinejad. That would be a 'lost game'. Ahmadinejad would never stop his nuclear ambitions because his ideology is about destroying peace and freedom in the world. US government should stop calculating like merchants and follow the principle of supporting human rights in Iran. If US gov. fails to back Iranian population again this time, then it will have to wait a very long time before another golden green generation appears in Iran who is willing to reconcile.

Dear Martha, all possible routes for freedom is blocked, yet we remain hopeful. Every night at 10 pm, with the call of "God is Great, Long Live Mosavi, and death to dictator", 'hope' comes again to our homes, yet on the ground, we are waiting for something like a miracle to come to our aid.

July 1, 2009

Dear Martha, you asked me to tell you about the daily life or routine in Iran now? That is a brilliant question and probably the most important one. It has a simple answer, yet it is very complex within its simplicity. To talk about this issue, I would need to tell you about the journey which our nation has traveled through the last few weeks:

The last four years during which ahmadinejad has ruled over our land was a time of total darkness, total humiliation, lies, hypocrisy, violation of human rights, and a complete burial of freedom. He ruined everything. He destroyed freedom, economy, culture, art, sport, and foreign affairs. The soil of our land became like a burnt soil, no different from useless ashes. He jailed Iran into darkness. But there was one thing he could not destroy; one thing that remained as our soul capital; one thing that grew in our hearts and his evil fire could not burn; and that unique thing was 'hope'.

Every individual carried this hope in his/her heart, but others were not aware of it. Two months ago, we started our campaigning for reform in Iran and chose the color Green as our sign. Once everyone dressed in green, we realized how 'big' we are, how 'strong' and 'plenty' we are. People became aware of the hope which existed in other people's hearts. Every individual realized that he/she is not alone in carrying the seed of hope in his/her heart, and then we started sharing our hopes together. In just few weeks the face of Iran changed.

People became happy, smiling, active, and joyful; feeling that it is possible to live in an Iran which belongs to all Iranians and not in an Iran which is hijacked by fascists. Women started imagining days where they could happily live besides their men and have equal rights as them. During the campaigning days, it used to rain every night, and people were happy and celebrating Mosavi's coming victory under rain. We thought that the rain is washing away all the burnt ashes from our land and that the seeds of hope in our hearts could become strong trees on the land. The reformist candidates (Mir Hossein Mosavi, and also Mehdi Karubi) were happy with people's participation and ready to start reforming Iran.

And then, the Election Day arrived. We wrote 'Mosavi', but they read 'ahmadinejad'!
Our Green Vote was not his Dark name.



Overnight, our happiness turned in Shock. We started protesting peacefully, but they oppressed. They killed, hit, jailed, tortured, and kidnapped the nation, and tore out Neda's heart. Again, overnight, our shock turned into Sorrow. But there was one thing they could not kill and destroy, and that unique thing is 'hope' which exists in the hearts and that now, we are all aware of. This hope, besides a beloved and strong leadership (Mosavi, and also Karubi) remains our soul capital. Although in just one week, the nation experienced Happiness, Shock, and Sorrow on a mass scale, but it made us stronger. At the beginning we just wanted to win the elections, but now we look further and dream of wider and brighter horizons. Although the events on the ground are all against what we expected, but the nation has found itself and we will continue this journey towards happy days. I do not know 'How', but we will get there. Because we can still feel the presence of 'hope' in our hearts.

So, if I am to tell you about the daily life and routine in Iran now, I would simply just say: We are hoping.



July 4, 2009

Dear Martha, thanks for putting up my letters despite being always on road.

It seems that green movement is gradually entering into a new stage. New forms of resistance are appearing. A couple of days ago, the sms system was restored again! There are news that during the last 20 days in which sms system was shot down, the government has lost a big amount of money (all communication systems in Iran belong to the government). So, Mosavi's supporters have decided to boycott sms system to cause more loss to the government. We do not use sms anymore unless for urgent issues and for important communication. Also, TV is boycotted. Iranian state TV has ignored and insulted the green movement repeatedly calling us "hooligans"! So, Mosavi's supporters have decided to boycott the TV and only watch satellite channels. There are news in the newspapers that those who appear on the state TV (even those who only read the news) have been boycotted. People do not talk to them and no one sells anything to them. That is why some of TV staff have resigned because even their neighbors refuse to say 'hi' to them. Using the money is another form of resistance. I have seen some money bills which carry political slogans! People write 'long live Mosavi' and 'death to dictator' on the money bills which act as 'always moving' political flyers throughout the city. Also, there are other forms of resistance. There are some charity boxes in the city. People used to throw money into these boxes for the poor and charity institutions. (In fact, all charity institutions in Iran is under government control!) So, Mosavi's supporters have decided to boycott the charity boxes because we believe that the government steals the money. Instead, people take small peaces of paper and write: "My Vote: Mir Hussein Mosavi" on the paper and throw it into charity boxes. Also, people used to turn on the lights of their cars while driving during the day as a sign of protest, but they do not do this anymore cause the basij attacks and breaks the glass and damages the car.

There are now more than a thousand political prisoners in Iran which do not have access to lawyer and some of whom have been missing so far. some of them have been tortured and forced to confess in the state TV that the green movement is a US/UK conspiracy. (I read it in the newspaper, as I said state TV is boycotted). But these confessions are baseless and have no value.

In his latest speech, Ahmadinejad has said: "I am receiving numerous letters from people all around the world, especially US and europe who are asking me to come and save them from the tyr-

anny of western democracies. They say that they want to have a 'real' democracy like in Iran. We need to move forward. The world is asking us to fulfill our responsibility in creating a free world"!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

What a Funny, but tragic statement! seems his melancholy and illusion has moved into an irreversible stage! (Ahmadinejad's democracy is made with bullets, knives, axes, and spears).

Climansou (one of former french prime ministers) once said: "You can lie on a spear, but you can't sit on it". Ahmadinejad is lying on spear, but he can't sit straight. with our civil resistance, his days are numbered.

July 12, 2009

Hi Martha!

I guess I am at facebook.

Facebook is still blocked, but I am recently working in an an office, and became friends with the IT guy. And he enters a code which could override the filtering of the government on a daily basis.

So, I guess as long as I am working here, I can access my facebook (only at the office, and not at home).

It has been more than a year since I logged into my facebook. I feel good, but also kind of strange. So, I guess I am going to be quite silent in the beginning and then gradually become an outloud facebook guy again.

I sent you a message at facebook, but I guess I couldn't send it due to low speed of the internet. The IT guy is telling me that sometimes I can only view the contents of facebook, but couldn't comment. I don't know, but it is very good to be back after Spain's championship last night.

kiss



July 21, 2009

Dear Martha,

Since I have not been writing the letters to you for a while, I thought of writing a quick summary of what took place in Iran in the past couple of weeks.

There had been three mass rallies (on July 9th, July 17th at the Friday Prayers, and today 21st of July in the streets of city centre). It is reported that about 7 people were killed on July 9th and that more than 50 people were arrested because they were taking photographs and videos from the demonstrations. The government is extremely afraid of the videos which are sent to foreign media and reportedly, most of the detained people have been brutally tortured, sexually abused and raped (both men and women) by Basij militia.

The Friday prayer on July 17th which was held in Tehran University was an important day for our movement for several reasons:

The speaker before the prayers was Hashemi Rafsanjani. He is a powerful ayatollah and a smart politician. Although he and his family are believed to be financially corrupted, yet, in the Friday prayers he sided with green movement, criticizing the government, doubting the election results, and asking for immediate release of political prisoners. Although his tone was quite soft (we expected him to condemn the government with stronger words), yet the fact that a powerful ayatollah has expressed his solidarity with people in the Friday Prayer (which is conventionally a place where the fascists and conservatives express their ideas) is a positive sign and step forward for us.

About 2.5 million people took part in the Friday prayers. Tehran University was full and all the streets around the university were packed with Mousavi's supporters. Most of people used the event as an excuse to demonstrate and protest, all with green signs and united slogans. The main slogans were "Mousavi, we support you" and "death to dictator". But there were two more slogans which I personally was very happy to know they were chanted in the streets. These slogans were "DEATH TO RUSSIA" and "DEATH TO CHINA"! These two countries are two dictatorships that immediately recognized Ahmadinejad. Most of Basij militia were trained in Russia and these two countries have strong economic and political alliance with Ahmadinejad's government. Please note

that in the past thirty years, only fascists and conservatives have been attending the Friday prayers and their only slogan had been "Death to America" and "Death to England". Even this time, a Basij member took the microphone and started yelling "death to US and England" but the crowd replied "death to Russia, death to China, and death to Dictator".

Mousavi and Karubi attended the prayers. Mousavi did not go into the university. He preferred to stay in the streets amongst his supporters and repeatedly assuring the people that he will remain with them till the end. Karubi went into the university, but he was attacked by Basij militia and beaten! Also, the police attacked the people in the streets with tear gas and clubs (but not guns! Because they are afraid they might be caught in the films which are taken by people!). I don't know what has happened in this country dear Martha! It is officially called "ISLAMIC Republic of Iran"! But in this so called ISLAMIC country, people who have come to PRAY are attacked and beaten only and only because they refuse to live under a dictator.

July 22, 2009

Dear Martha,

Thanks for your comments on my letter. I appreciate it.

Well, as I mentioned in the beginning of the letter, since I had not been writing to you for the last couple of weeks, I thought of writing a short summary of the events in the past two weeks. Obviously, I was not in Iran and could not have written with equal passion and emotion as the previous emails.

But I agree with you when you mention that my perspective on the events in Iran is now different. I have traveled and been exposed to the way Iran's news has been covered abroad. I realized that the intellectual people, (like you and Doug) have quite thorough understanding of the events, yet the masses only know that there is some "trouble" while being emotionally sympathetic with Iranians.

I guess my letters after my trip would be somehow different. They would be informative about the details so that intellectual people could have a balanced vision about Iranian events. I have read the newspapers abroad (USA Today, Herald Tribune, The Guardian, Le Figaro, ...). Their reports are generally fair and reflect the reality, but once I add some details to the story, you guys can more easily touch the events. Plus, I believe the letters would become both 'less' and 'more' emotional!! Less emotional so that I could decrease the 'sympathy' of the people towards Iranians (we don't like sympathy!), but also more emotional in such a way that the story could touch that 'human' side of all those who read it. The depth of the events in Iran, indeed, have the capacity to become a 'world heritage' for 'human quest for freedom', and if I could be able to shape my letters for that cause, I would be personally satisfied to have played a positive role in the green movement which is so dear to my heart and part of my identity and existence.

Also, before my trip, the green movement was still at its early stages and I was always worried it might vanish. This issue was somehow reflected in my letters when I repeatedly asked for foreign support. But right now, the Green movement has become a 'reality' in the global network and western politicians can't help but to notice the strength of this movement. So, I guess, the coming letters would not be as insistent on foreign support as the previous ones.



Dear Martha,

you mentioned something about the time and the clock. I should now tell you something about this issue. When I came to barcelona, I had a watch and a mobile with me. Of course, I had to change the time of my watch to spain local time. But in fact, I COULDN'T! My watch remained on Iran's time (I only changed the time on my mobile). I couldn't be away from iran's local time because every time I looked at my watch, I imagined the time and the streets in Iran and remained faithful to my green cause. Time is a complicated issue. in general, I don't like the concept of time, but this time, it was 'time' that let me remain connected to my homeland!! Have you read Charles Dicken's novel 'Great Expectations'? When 'pip' meets 'miss havisham', the novel reveals a very delicate issue about 'time'; somehow similar to your plan to intervene on the clock!!!

Dear Martha,

Having said all this, I need to also tell you that I have no control on my writings and I do not even plan about what I would be writing. My words are born the same moment they are written. So, despite all this analysis, the words that come out of my future letters might surprise me and you.

A big booo



July 23, 2009

Dear Martha and all those who read these words!

I have just received some heartbreaking news and I think it is important to share it with everyone in the world.

The Green movement in Iran has found two new symbols besides Neda! Neda's last moments were captured in a video, but the stories of 'Taraneh' and 'Sohrab', I believe, are even more heartbreaking than Neda's.

Taraneh

Taraneh Mosavi (she is not related to Mir Hussein Mosavi) was a very very beautiful girl; so beautiful that she was always referred to as an example of pure beauty amongst her friends. On June 19th there was a rally in north Tehran (the same rally in which a large community of artists took part). Taraneh was also present in the rally with her green scarf and as her friends say "very fashionable dress and eye catching hair style". Government forces arrested Taraneh along with several other protesters. She was moved into jail and had not been allowed to contact her family for about one month. Until few days ago, her family was contacted by a hospital in Tehran and been informed that Taraneh is in the hospital. Taraneh's family rushed into hospital where they received the dead body of their daughter!

But the story doesn't stop here! Taraneh's body showed that she was severely raped by several men in the jail. Her womb and anus were torn off and ripped. Her breast deformed. She was so badly raped that her two legs were almost detached from the rest of her body and only connected with skin. Taraneh became the martyr of freedom! In Persian, Taraneh means "song". I have not seen her photo but can hear her song in the streets of Tehran now. Taraneh was 19.

Sohrab,

Sohrab was a young boy who also took part in one of the rallies in the early days of the protest. He was also arrested and moved to jail. But her family was not informed of his whereabouts. Her mother (Parvaneh), tried to find her son by going to different prisons and hospitals to get some news about her son. But she was denied any information. Finally, after more than one month, they asked her for about 50,000 dollars to bail her son out of jail. Parvaneh paid the

bail out and was informed that Sohrab would be at home 'tomorrow morning'. The next day, in the morning, the bell rang at Parvaneh's home and she rushed to the door to embrace her son, but instead was given the dead body of Sohrab! Later, in the investigations it was proved that Sohrab was shot in the prison the night before he was delivered to her mother! He was killed the same night he was supposed to be freed!

A few days ago, Mosavi and his wife went to Sohrab's home to pay their condolences to Parvaneh. There are some footages of the meeting. Parvaneh seemed defiant. She welcomed Mosavi and his wife. She was mournful but also proud to have lost her son for Iran's freedom. She repeatedly mentioned several times that Sohrab's only weapon in the rallies was his 'green headband'! Sohrab was also 19.

Dear Martha, as I told you before, this green movement in Iran is indeed 'a world heritage for human quest for freedom'. Neda, Taraneh, and Sohrab are not merely martyrs of Iran's green movement, they are the pigeons of freedom whose pure spirit will fly all over the world and remind everyone that human beings are all born free and need to value their freedom. Once we achieve our freedom in Iran, we shall never forget that this freedom was not achieved for free.

July 25, 2009

Dear Martha and all dear everyone who reads this letter.

I am just coming from today's rally in northern Tehran. The rally was supposed to be at 6. Me and my friends went there at 6 but we were a bit disappointed because there were too many Basij and not any protestor! So, me and my friends went to a nearby coffee shop. The coffee shop was inside a shopping mall and we could not see outside. We were there for about an hour and once we came out of the shopping mall at about 7, we were shocked. There were about 10,000 protestors in the main square. They had all gathered there in just one hour despite heavy Basij presence. As you know, most of our rallies are 'silent rallies' and that is why we hadn't heard anything when we were inside the coffee shop. As usual, Basij attacked the crowd again with cold weapon and dispersed them, but the streets around the demonstration spot is still crowded and there are clashes between people and Basij at nearby streets.

Today, I saw several demonstrators carrying some flyers on which it was written: "Thank you Florence"! Because the municipality of Florence has hung a green flag from its headquarters and also, one of Michaelangelo's main statues in Florence has been lit with 'green lights' in solidarity with the green movement in Iran. (Actually, I thought of you Martha and your recent Florence proxy project!)

Next week there would be another rally on the 40th day of Neda's martyrdom. In Islamic faith, when someone dies, there are religious ceremonies on his/her 3rd, 7th, and 40th day after his/her death. Next week, all the people would be holding this ceremony for Neda in the streets and in Tehran cemetery.

Dear Martha, 'death to Russia' slogan has been added to our 10 pm chants every night. (Of course, we mean 'death to Vladimir Putin' and Russia's dictatorship and not the Russian people). Day after day, we are learning that Putin has offered enormous help to Ahmadinejad in the recent rigged election and that most of Basij members have been trained in Russia!

The green movement in Iran has now become like the 'Sun' for our nation; always shining, glowing, and warming our country. It has become a reality and a constant in our lives. Government forces are only like shallow clouds who might delay or temporarily obstruct the sunshine! But no



matter what so ever, the sun shines, and warms our lives. The clouds vanish, but our green sun keeps shining. All sunny days in Iran are gradually approaching!

July 25, 2009

Dear Martha.

Many thanks for posting the letter. I have seen the comments and I am grateful to you and all others who share it.

I am alright here. Its a strange summer. Quite warm daytime and almost rains late every night. You know, quick and fast summer rains! Gets crazy in a few seconds and dries up few minutes once the rain is over. Otherwise, things are routine. I speak less often to Sima on the phone, and haven't seen her for quite a long time now. But I think she is not having good days. I have seen some of her recent photos in facebook and she looks awful. You know, she is like a flower. When she is happy, she flourishes and becomes very beautiful, and when she is sad, she perishes, like a flower that hasn't been watered for a while! Anyway, I guess, I have had a hard time letting go of Sima. I wished to have made a long term commitment to her, but it couldn't just happen (because of the 'fear of happiness epidemy'). But I know that its just in my head. I have the ability to transform everything into a novel and create a drama of it (unfortunately). As I am close to turn thirty, I am contemplating to appreciate and understand the 'REALITY' more and more. How could one achieve a balance between reality and fantasy?? There might not be an answer for that, but my life has always been about this dilemma so far.

Kisses

July 26, 2009

Dear Martha,

Thank you and little Sophia for making the beautiful graphics of WIMV (Where Is My Vote?). It is incredible. I put it as the background picture on my desktop. Thank you and kiss little Sophie on my behalf.

Well, today there was another demonstration which I did not know about but my sister knew and she went there and she was about to get into trouble but fortunately, she is back home and she is safe.

The rally today was in northern Tehran and for commemorating one of the victims called 'Mohsen' aged 23 who died in jail. He was arrested a couple of weeks ago and when his body was given to his family, it showed that he had been under severe torture and his jaw was broken. The doctors say that after being tortured, he had been badly bleeding and caught high fever (of about 42 degrees), but the Basij refused to take him to hospital and he died due to high fever! It is interesting to know that Mohsen's father was one of Ahmadinejad's supporters and had been campaigning for him. But Mohsen chose to join the green movement and became the martyr of freedom.

My sister says that in today's demonstration, the police and Basij attacked people and started beating them. My sister and her friends started to run but some policemen chased them. So, my sister and her friends escaped into the nearby 'Mellat Park' and hid behind trees and bushes. The policemen lost them and left. I had a little verbal fight with my sister today cause I had told her over and over to be careful when she goes to rallies and stay out of trouble. (my sister is younger than me, so I sometimes give her advices!!) But seems she was a bit careless today. You know deep inside I admire her and her courage. I know I have no right to limit her, but I love her so much that I cannot help but to be protective of her. (In previous rallies when I went with her, I used to hug her from behind to protect her from any evil).

Mellat Park is relatively large and full of very old trees. There is a relatively big lake in the middle of the park which I think is a semi-natural lake and some parts of it is quite deep. My sister says that some protestors jumped into the lake and swam to its centre to escape the Basij attack, but right now, the lake is surrounded by the Basij and police waiting for protes-

tors to come out and be arrested!

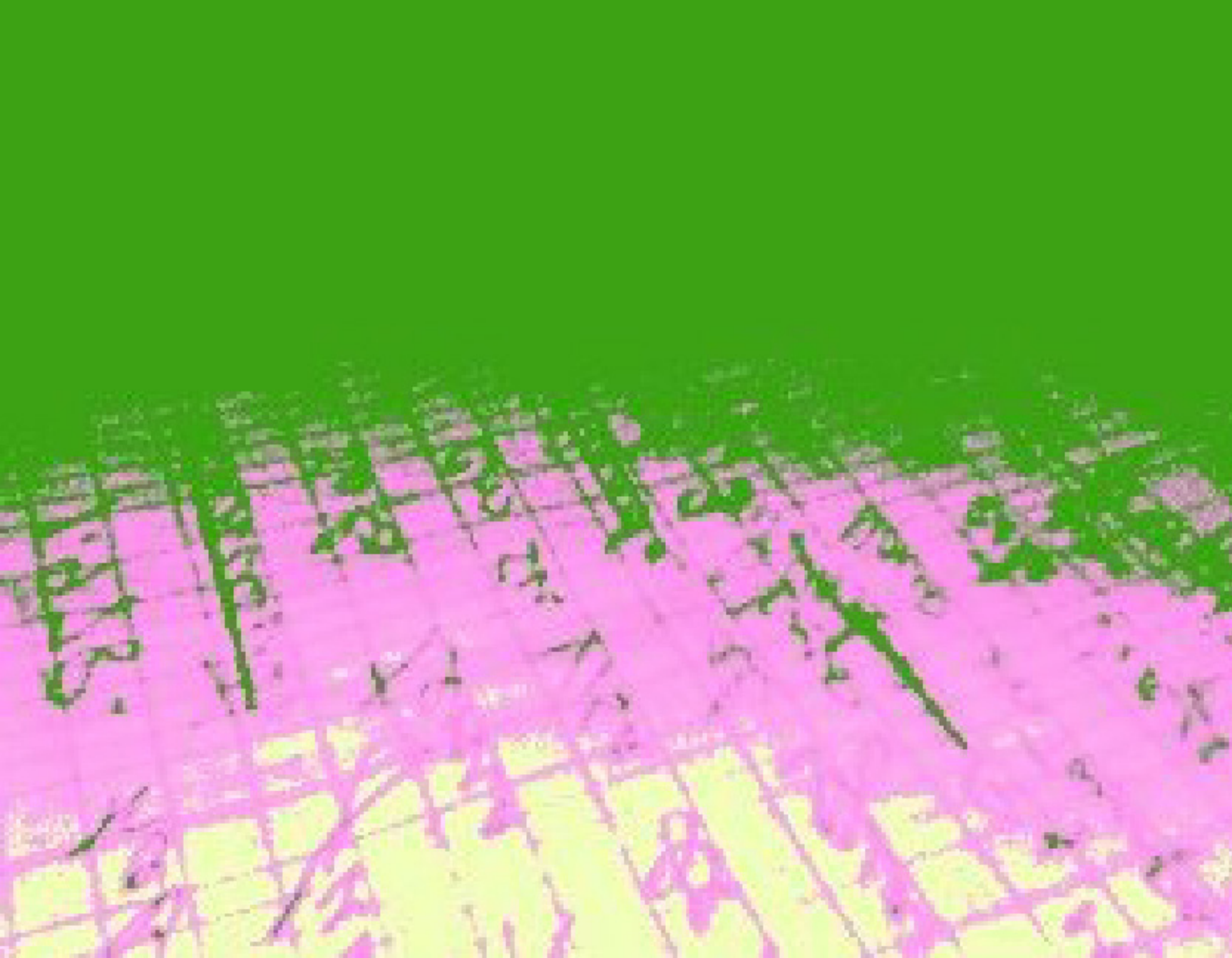
Government's new strategy is 'not to use guns in the streets' in order to avoid getting caught in people's videos. Instead, they arrest people and kill them in the jail under torture. Taraneh, Sohrab, Mohsen, and so many others have died in this way.

Dear Martha, yesterday in Paris there was also a demonstration in support of the green movement. Iranians all over the world had send green cloths to Paris on which they had signed their name and declared that 'Ahmadinejad is not my elected President'. In paris, they sewed all this cloth together and it became about 2000 meters long. The original plan was to hang it from Eiffel tower, but since the cloth had become taller than the Eiffel, it was taken around Paris in a 4 hour long demonstration. According to Guinness, this was a world record and now, Ahmadinejad is the most hated president of all times!!!

Dear Martha,

The coming Thursday is Neda's 40th day of death and there will be a rally in central Tehran. If me and my sister reconcile till then, we will attend together. (cause now she doesn't talk to me and I know that soon or late, I have to apologize!!).
a big kiss.





July 28, 2009

Dear Martha;

Ocean is stormy, but the green boat is moving forward towards the coast of freedom, yet the price that the sons and daughters of this land are paying in this journey has been very high so far: about 300 martyrs, and more than 4000 political prisoners who are being severely tortured, raped, humiliated, and killed in the dark jails of tyranny. But I am confident and hopeful that this green ship shall never sink, and shall touch the warm sands of liberty. You might wonder why so hopeful I remain and why so much hope I possess despite all this oppression.

I don't want to spend the following lines in historical analysis of national movements and revolutions in Iran, but rather I wish to share with you -and all dear friends who read these words - some of my thoughts these days which are, I believe, more in the domain of fantasy than logic:

Tehran is a large city; so large that its mere magnitude makes it quite difficult for its inhabitants to frequently visit each other. Plus, the government's inhumane policies during the past 30 years (and specially last 4 years) have made it difficult for us to freely communicate with each other without fear or worry. Thus, 'loneliness' has always been an integrated part of many people's lives in Tehran. Even in the presence of one's friends, one might still feel lonely due to the lack of freedom in this city. As my friend says: "we are strangers in our homeland"! Within this ambience of suffocation, every person has chosen an element in this city to fill that 'empty' space in his/her life. I cannot speak on behalf of other people, but for me, and since childhood, that element has always been the very high mountains north of Tehran. On the northern edge of Tehran, there lies the very high 'Alborz' mountain chain and the peaks of the mountains are often covered with snow throughout the year. These mountains are so high that make the city feel minute and humiliated! I remember when I was a child I had to turn up my head to its maximum limit to be able to see its peaks. When I was a child, I thought of these mountains as 'powerful witnesses' to my life; and since they were (and are!) so powerful and immense, I promised myself to be successful and strong in my life so that I would never become 'ashamed' before the eyes of such strong witnesses! Although I have always been surrounded with many friends in my life, but I insist to say that: 'in my lonely times', I always looked and admired these moun-

tains when I was at home. And during all the long years of traveling abroad, I never slept one single night without imagining the image of these mountains in my mind.

But recently, and after the birth of the green movement in Iran, I have not found myself looking up vertically to these mountains anymore! Instead, my eyes tend to be horizontally oriented to the surface of the city, and admire and worship this beautiful green ocean made by the youth of this land who have found each other and who are faithful to their cause to achieve freedom. I am not only speaking of the large and small green silent rallies. But I am speaking of the everyday life. Although it is dangerous to show green signs during the day, nevertheless, people manifest their passion for this green movement at any chance they get. When the cars are standing behind the red traffic light, and within those short moments, they look at each other with a rather bitter smile, showing each other a 'V' sign with their fingers along with a small green cloth. This green movement has now gotten integrated to the fabric of our society and it shall never die. Because of this green movement, one does not feel 'lonely' in this city anymore even if one is literally alone! In this green movement, I have found something far greater, far more powerful, far more immense, and far more meaningful than the mountains of Northern Tehran. I know these mountains have been standing there for as long as the history of this land, but I have this strange feeling that these mountains are also admiring the sacrifices of Neda, Taraneh, Sohrab, and the rest of the victims. These mountains have no choice, but to confess that the power of the resistance of the sons and daughters of this land who are being severely tortured in the dark jails of tyranny is far greater than them. I remain greenly hopeful because I can see that the strength of Neda's open eyes in her last moments, Taraneh's ripped body, and Sohrab's green headband is far more fascinating than the might of the mountains. I believe that now, the turn is for the mountains to feel minute and humiliated before the might of this green ocean.



August 6, 2009

Dear Martha.

The last three days had been quite wild. There were demonstrations everyday and government forces' brutality and violence against unarmed protestors was part of Tehran's daily routine. I was witness to all these demonstrations. Streets of Tehran are covered with blood and smoke and pride and sacrifice. Amongst all this heroic mess, I have recently thought of traveling a few hundred years forward and imagine how would our beloved green movement be mentioned in history books? I believe when they intend to write the history of 21st century, the first chapter would belong to us! Of course, in the beginning of the book, they can write about other important events such as September 11th and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan too. But these were all remainings of the previous century with the same conventional and old fashioned political vocabulary and the same violent tools; warplanes, rockets, and bullets!

But then, chapter one shall be written in green because we were the true children of our time, and our rhetoric, vocabulary, and tools were those of our times. They shall write that our movement was not about any particular ideology; neither communism nor capitalism, nor nihilism, nor Islamism, and nor any other ism, but it rather was about pure human values. They shall write that our weapons were not guns and swords and bullets and bombs, but just simple pieces of green cloths whose soft faces fancied our harsh ones. They shall write that the loudest of all our slogans was 'silence', and the biggest guilt was our 'presence'. History is packed with stories of movements and revolutions in which the leader leads and the nation follows. But history shall write that in our case, the nation led, and the leader followed. This is not something that I blindly claim. You can read Mir Hussein Mousavi's different statements in which he has acknowledged with such profound humility that he would attend a rally or an event because the people have "invited" him to do so! What a beautiful scene our nation is offering to history! A scene in which the nation 'invites' the leader and the leader 'accepts' the invitation! A scene in which millions and millions of followers lead, and one single leader follows! A movement of millions of leaders and a single follower! They shall write in history that although this movement had millions of leaders, but it never fell into the dig of anarchy and all these leaders magically worked together to compose this beautiful green symphony! They shall write that our

nation was brave and strong because all our protests were peaceful and the more they killed and jailed the children of this land, the more we became committed to overcome our rage and follow our non-violent route; and that was our strength. Yesterday, the so called president (whom I won't waste my time typing his dark name) went to the parliament to be sworn and start his second term. But the parliament was surrounded with green protestors. So, he had to be taken to the building by helicopter! You see, we are not afraid of their tanks and bullets, but they are afraid of our silent presence. They shall write in history that our tools of communication were not through secret services and military networks; but rather through weblogs and websites and emails and messages; and that we were the nation whose pens were their keyboards and their logic came through their 'words'. History will testify our victory and freedom shall come to our land. We shall own the first chapter of the third millennium because we were the children of our time and our rhetoric, vocabulary, and tools were those of our times.

History would be the best and fairest judge, and I believe, we stand on the right side of history while the stinking corpse of this fascist government wouldn't have a better fate than to be burnt in history's garbage can.

Dear Martha,

Although the streets of Tehran are filled with blood and smoke, but when I think of history and future, and when I remember that we are making the future freedom of this land, then, I feel that so far, we are living through the best days of our lives.

A big kiss



August 13, 2009

Dear Martha,

I am going to inform you about the events that took place this week in Tehran. Unlike the previous week in which four major demonstrations had taken place, this week there was no major rally or demonstration. I heard of dispersed demonstrations here and there, but I did not see anything myself. We expect next week to be also relatively calm, but from the week after that, rallies and demonstrations will start again. Plus, tomorrow Friday, I think there would be some clashes in the Friday prayers near Tehran University. Meanwhile the amount of green slogans and political graffiti has dramatically increased all over the city.

However, this week something important happened which would be very useful for the future. One of the main goals is to paralyze the entire country and make it impossible for the government to rule. And along this line, there are plans for a mass strike on a national scale. As I mentioned before, the strike would not be successful unless Tehran Grand Bazaar and its wealthy merchants join the green movement as a first step, and then the strike could be rapidly extended to other sections of economy and industry. So, the idea of 'Green Shopping' was first discussed in the internet amongst the activists in the green movement and we tried it yesterday (Aug 12th), and although it was not completely successful, but I think the outcome was promising. The 'green shopping plan' mainly asked the green protestors to go to Tehran Grand Bazaar with green shirts and signs, but without buying anything. Instead of shopping, people were asked to chant in loud voice (not silent rally this time) and ask the shop owners to join the crowd and close their shops. Tehran Grand Bazaar is a very large area of the city consisting of about 300 intertwined and complex network of traditional streets and alleys which are all roofed (in brick vaults) and divided into different sections (Jewelry section, Carpet section, Food section, ...). Although the entire Bazaar is as big as two or three neighborhoods, yet it has very few entrances (and exits) to this large urban complex. So, Wednesday morning I went there early morning and the entire bazaar was full of Basij and police. They had put two Basij members for each shop in order to prevent them from closing their shops (the government is very afraid of a strike in the bazaar). Gradually the green protestors arrived. Unbelievable! We were so countless that the entire bazaar was packed with people in green. It was quite difficult to walk and breathe! The bazaar was almost paralyzed and the shop owners gradually prepared themselves to close their

shops because they were afraid any clash would harm their properties and that amongst all these 'shoppers(!)' almost no one shopped at all! The crowd was very huge, but due to the presence of Basij, people did not chant. They only smiled to each other and showed each other 'V' signs with their fingers. The Basij were furious and cursing at the people non-stop!

Then at about 11, Zahra Rahnavard (Mousavi's wife) arrived and entered the bazaar. Then the crowd exploded with chants of 'Mousavi, Mousavi, we support you' and 'death to dictator'. She was quickly taken out of the bazaar by the security forces but people continued to chant. The Basij tried to attack the people but since the bazaar was so packed with people, they could not arrest anyone (as far as I saw). Finally, some of the shop owners closed their shops but I could hear the Basij forcing them to keep the shop open otherwise they would set it on fire! (I could smell some smoke coming from far away, I guess, maybe they had actually set some shops on fire) As I was exiting the bazaar at midday, I could see that about 10% of the shops were closed. The entire Jewellery and Gold section of bazaar was closed and the rest were forced to remain open! I could also see that the wealthy shop owners in the grand bazaar also chanted with people and I realized that their hearts is with the green movement, but have not been able to join the movement due to their fear.

Dear Martha,

I do not know whether you have heard about the 'Kahrizak' prison in southern Tehran. But there is some news (which come from trustable sources) that huge crimes against humanity are taking place inside this prison. Unbelievable and horrifying ways of torture! I would not describe anything to you right now because I am afraid some of the people who read this letter might have heart problems and if they learn about those severe tortures, they might faint! Just would tell you that the ways of torture in this prison are so dreadful that 'rape' would seem 'nothing' compared to them! These news are leaking out and it has caused a turmoil in the society and even amongst some of the politicians who support Ahmadinejad. Their party are being gradually divided into different sections and sub-parties. I hope they would rip each other off! The weaker they become, the sooner victory shall arrive.

A big kiss.

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August 20, 2009

Dear Martha,

Hope you are fine and everything is alright. As usual, I am writing to you about the events during the last week in Iran. This week they closed the one and only remaining pro-green newspaper in Iran called 'Etemaad e Melli' meaning 'National Trust' which belonged to Mehdi Karubi, and which I believed, was the most professional newspaper in Iran. Mousavi's newspaper was closed a long time ago, and all the newspapers and magazines that supported the green movement were also closed during the last couple of months. This week, this last one was banned, and as a result, there was a demonstration in front of the newspaper's office in central Tehran. Although the rally was relatively small, but the slogans chanted against the government were quite strong and somehow radical. The more pressure they put, the more radical our demands shall become. I wasn't there, but a friend of mine was there and she saw one person (as usual a woman) shot, and about 15 people arrested who probably will be tortured and raped in the jail. (The reason they closed this newspaper was because it had published Karubi's statements in which he had informed the nation about the severe tortures and rapes in the jails, with credible documents and proof) Now, we have no media; no television, no radio, and no newspaper or magazine. Satellite channels cannot be received properly, and internet speed is very slow. We still communicate through some websites, chat rooms, and emails but since our goal is to expand our movement, we need a media with a wider audience. Amongst numerous problems we have, I believe two of them are more eminent and need to be solved quickly. As I mentioned, one is lack of a media that could inform a wide range of people about the coming events. Since we have no media, I believe each and every of us should become a media. Before the elections and during the campaigns, one of Mousavi's main slogans was 'each citizen is a media' and I believe this is now continuing (but needs to be organized as a network). I am personally trying to do this. Although I have a car, but I now travel in the city over and over like a 'political flaneur' -without any specific destination- by taxi and public bus, and inform people about the events that has happened, and the events that would be coming up such as rallies and other actions. It is a bit risky, but I usually try to inform people indirectly and somehow between the lines. But people are usually quick in receiving the message and reply to me with a twinkle and a quick 'V' sign!

The second problem is that we should not let people lose hope. Due to government's brutality, and especially after the news about the tortures and rapes in the jails, I feel some people have

become fragile, fearful, and hopeless. These are usually people who are married and have children and who are older than the green generation. Our generation is committed and remains hopeful. But I believe that the entire society should be hopeful. So, these days I am acting like a non-stop speaker! In the taxi, bus, streets, shops, and anywhere I get the chance, I try to talk to people and give the hope and boost up their spirits. There is a story that when I tell people, they become suddenly so hopeful and happy, and usually leave the place with a smile. The story is a myth, although religious people insist that it is a true story (But it doesn't matter). Since I have said this story like five hundred times, now I am going to say it once more to you (the first time in English):

Solomon was a very powerful king; so powerful and glorious that his kingdom expanded all over the earth and that all the sources and forces in the world were under his absolute control. He had the habit of going up a hill, lean on his stick, look at the sky, and pray to the God. When he was praying, no one dared to go close to him and disturb his praying time because he had created such glorious ambience around him. One day, he went up the hill and stood leaning on his stick and started praying. But this time it lasted longer than usual. Several days passed and he stood motionless. People wondered what happened to him, but no one dared to approach him. Meanwhile, a termite (like a little ant) went up the hill and started chewing the tip of Solomon's stick. After several days, the stick broke and Solomon fell down. People ran to him and realized that it was because of the stick that he remained stood; otherwise Solomon had indeed died a long time ago!

Now, once I tell this story, then I tell people that this government has actually died a long time ago! I tell them that the very moment they disrespected people's vote, when they killed Neda in the streets, when they shot Sohrab in the jail, when they raped Taraneh and burnt her body, at those very moments this government died for ever. What we need to do as people is to act like a little ant and chew the government's stick and make it fall! We do not need to kill this government. It is already dead and the smell of its stinking corpse has filled the city. All we need to do is to make its death visible. We need to remain committed, resilient, and hopeful. It might take us a while, but finally the stick will break, and then everyone (including leaders of other countries) will realize that this government had died long before.

This story has positive effect on people and I shall keep on saying it to others. There is also a very short poem that I read to people and it makes them hopeful (It is a short part of a long poem written by 'Molavi', Iranian poet who lived 800 years ago):
"Finally, this ladder shall fall..."

The fool is the one who stands higher on the ladder...
because his bones shall break harder"

I tell people that the ladder of this government will fall and all we need is to push it!

Dear Martha,

I think I am more useful this way because in general, Iranians relate quite well with myths, poems, stories, and literature. In the rallies, I am afraid and usually do not get into the main core of the rally. I usually stand in the periphery and in a position where I could feel relatively safe, yet be present. However, I feel much better when I talk to people and give them hope. This way I am more useful to our green cause.

A big kiss.

By the way, let me know how is Doug doing? Feels better?



August 29, 2009

Dear Martha,

Have you heard of Galileo? I am speaking of the very same Galileo who was forced to confess in the court that the "the earth is not round" despite his beliefs.

Then, if you want to see Galileo, just come to Iran and you can see him making the same confessions!

Only after few hours of the rigged elections in June, more than a 100 of reformist leaders, politicians, and theoreticians were arrested and jailed. They have been kept in total isolation -in solitary - during the past 80 days and know nothing of the all the recent events in Iran, they were not allowed to have an attorney, they were not allowed to contact their families, and they have been subject to physical and severe mental tortures. Since few weeks, they have been brought to court and forced to make false confessions that "the green movement is a US/UK conspiracy!" and "The election was not a fraud!" and that "Mousavi and Karubi are responsible for the death of all the victims!" As I said, they were in jail all this time and do not know about the post elections events, then, how could they know that there were victims and casualties after the elections?!! These are all false confessions dictated to them. In this court, they do not have an attorney, and all of them are being tried altogether, and the judge acts both as judge and prosecutor! (Their court is as valid as their elections). Last time, it was the turn for 'Saeed Hajarian' to confess. Hajarian is known to be the 'architect' of reforms and civil society in Iran. Although Mousavi and Karubi are the leaders of the movement, but one of the main masterminds behind their programs is Saeed Hajarian. He was assassinated ten years ago and became paralyzed and had a lot of difficulties in moving, eating, and speaking. But his brain was undamaged and kept on producing brilliant social and political theories. Due to the tortures in jail, he lost his ability to speak altogether. In the court, he was sitting on a chair, unable to move and speak, while another person was reading his confessions! (It was obvious that these were not his words because he has a distinct style in writing). He confessed that all his previous theories and ideas were wrong and under the influence of "corrupted western social sciences"! This court was ridiculous. But today, Saeed Hajarian became a hero. He is the Galileo of our times with a little difference because Galileo spoke in the court, yet Hajarian could not speak,

but he ruined the legitimacy of the court with his silent, yet meaningful smiles!

Dear Martha

Have you heard of the mass graves under Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, and Saddam? Then, you can add other mass graves to the list of history's mass graves. Last week, they discovered two mass grave in a remote corner of Tehran cemetery in which 94 bodies were buried. These bodies belonged to the protestors of the recent elections in Iran. They were buried there without any identification, and without informing their families and without any funeral service. There are many families whose children had been arrested during the recent protests. They might be waiting for them, but their beloved ones might now be resting in an undeclared mass grave somewhere in the middle of nowhere.

Dear Martha

Have you heard of Valentino? I am talking about St. Valentino of the Valentine's Day who used to marry the lovers in secret who became the martyr of love.

Then, let me tell you the story of one the martyrs of the green movement in Iran called Mohammad. This story has been recently told by his girlfriend. He was from another city but he was a studying in Tehran University. During the first days of the demonstrations, his girlfriend pays a visit to his apartment in Tehran. In those days people used to chant 'allahu akbar' and 'death to dictator' every night from the roof tops (now, people chant from their homes and next to windows). Anyway, to express his love to her, he takes her to the rooftop and goes to the edge of the roof and amongst different chants, he chants "I love you" to her. But since he was careless (standing at the edge of the roof!), he was shot by a sniper from the street and died in the arms of his girlfriend. He became the green martyr of love.

Dear Martha,

There are stories that we used to read in history books and be surprised about them. Now, we understand that those were not stories, they were for real. There are things that you can never escape from such as time and history. At the very moment we thought we have surpassed the limits of history, we confronted the reality that indeed, like our ancestors, we have been 'situated'! History always happens.

September 3, 2009

Dearest Martha;

Thank you for such a beautiful and encouraging email. Thank your relative on my behalf and say that I highly appreciate her interest and involvement. You are right Martha! I am quite disappointed and tired, and feel that our efforts have not given our desired results. I am basically frustrated with two issues:

1-Western countries' reluctance towards human rights in Iran. I understand that each country should be after its own national interests, but human rights should also be regarded as a fundamental value. Unfortunately, western countries only impose economic sanctions on Iran which only hurt Iranian people. It is very unfair to punish Iranian people for the bad behavior of Iranian government while we have shouted out loud that the existing Iranian regime does not represent us. Today a friend of mine said something interesting to me. He said: "Right now, Iran is like a dying cow. The western countries are rushing to milk this cow as much as they can without any attempt to cure it". (This is the first time I see someone using the term "cow" to describe Iran, because in legends, Iran is known to be a 'female CAT'!)

2- I am also angry with Mousavi and Karubi (especially Mousavi) because I think they were not able to capitalize on such a huge asset of green people. Their lack of decisiveness, perhaps, could not convince the global community that green movement could be an alternative for the existing regime! But anyway, in a country like Iran - which is used to dictatorship - I still respect Mousavi and Karubi for standing on people's side. (We have to keep in mind that they are under huge pressure and their lives are in danger)

September 4, 2009

Dear Martha,

Although I do not send letters anymore, but the green movement still continues. There have been several hunger strikes in the jail (more than 20 journalists and political prisoners went on a 16-day hunger strike). Several strikes by workers, ... But no more demonstrations at the streets (because it is too dangerous and useless). Yesterday, the Basijis attacked Karubi's home. Killed his body guard. set his kitchen on fire and burnt all his books. beat up his eldest Son (hussein). swore at his wife and broke the glasses of the cars of his neighbors. Iran is now the only country in the world in which the neighbors of the opposition leader do not have any security at their homes!!!

I have less hope than the same time last year because I am afraid a war might be inevitable. But this year is the year of 'patience'. hopefully better days shall arrive after hard days.

Dear Martha,

you can publish this letter if you like. I will try to write some more letters every now and then, but I cant promise to write regularly because there is a deadly fatigue in the atmosphere which has gotten into me.

kisses

Our
youth is
dropping from
your finger

The
THE BLOOD FROM
OUR YOUTH IS
DROPPING FROM
YOUR FINGER

September 5, 2009

Dear Martha,

I have just returned from my trip to the north. It was a nice time off and I was able to retreat to the nature and spend some peaceful time in the dense forests of the north and away from all the pressure and anxiety in Tehran. During the past few weeks, there hadn't been any major rally or unrest in the streets (except some dispersed and small rallies). The movement is now more active in the depth, trying to strengthen its network and connections, and only occasionally and on special days, it shall come to surface as a huge rally. But signs of struggle are visible in the city. You can now hardly find any wall in Tehran without bearing a green slogan. There are groups of youth who write these political slogans with green spray paints at night (even on the outer walls of ahmadinejad's palace, they have written a huge slogan "Death to you dictator! The blood of our youth is dropping from your fingers"). Then, during the day, government forces try to hide the slogans by covering them with white spray paints! Then again after midnight, the youth write green slogans on the white paints, and it goes on, and on, and on. So, the walls in Tehran are green at night and white during the day! I can't believe how stupid the government is! Whitening the slogans does not change anything. The damage is done. They can't have full control over the city. And that is exactly what people want to demonstrate. Plus, now you cannot find any image or poster of ahmadinejad in the city because the youth had written "murderer" on his images all over the city and now, the government has removed all of his images from the city. At least right now we don't see his face while driving; we've now gotten rid of one of the main sources of visual pollution in the city!

This week, we also saw the beginning of another important development. I had told you before that the green activists are planning for a mass and nation-wide strike. Now, some preliminary signs of such strike could be observed; not in the bazaar, but in the commercials in the state TV. Since more than two months ago, people have boycotted the state TV due to its disrespectful tone towards people and due to its non-stop lies and rumours. The results of this boycott are now getting visible. Due to the boycott, different companies, factories, and corporations do not advertise their products in the state TV anymore(they have even cancelled their contracts). Plus, there is a committee of green activists that closely watch the commercials on the TV, and any product advertised on the state TV would be soon boycotted by people. A couple of days ago,

I turned on the state TV after two months to check on the commercials. Before the elections, the duration of commercials was about ten minutes, but now it could hardly reach one minute! State TV has lost a lot of money now and that is why, last week 250 million dollars was given to the state TV from the Oil reserve (the money that Iran gains from selling oil). Alas! This oil money should be spent in creating infrastructure, and invested in production and job creation, yet most of it goes into the pockets of this illegitimate president and his coup d'etat team, a big part of it is given to terrorist groups in the region, and now, part of it is given to state TV that has become a factory that merely produces insults and lies (Mousavi had once said that the state TV is like an agency that "lies like a washing machine"!). The hatred towards the state TV is very high because during such hard days, in which we do not have any media and people sometimes feel fragile and lonely, the state TV acts like an intruder who trespasses people's property and tortures people at their homes with its lies and insults. Alas! Iran, this land with thousands years of history and civilisation is in ruins, while our natural capital (Oil) is being wasted. Alas!

Last week, when I turned on the state TV to check on the commercials, my mother blamed me with a statement that sounded somehow familiar: "Turn off that agency of lies. Don't waste your eyes! How can you turn that thing on while the 'the blood of our youth is dropping from their fingers'!"



September 12, 2009

Dear Martha,

This week was quite a busy week. Fascists have increased their violence and arrested some important figures of the green movements including two of Mousavi and Karubi's advisers. Plus, there are more and more heartbreaking news coming out about the savage manners by which many of green protestors have been tortured and killed. As we say in Persian, "the more they resort to violence, the deeper they dig their own graves". However, today I want to talk about a different issue.

I remember that last year and in a park, I had a conversation about Persian language with my cousin. I had told him that I had never seen or heard a good political speech or political statement written in Persian! I argued that this was in fact a weakness and a flaw within our language. Although there are magnificent masterpieces in Persian language, written both as poem and prose and in different fields, yet I argued that our language does not have the capacity to produce precious political literature. My cousin then, disagreed with me and said that the reason we lack a decent political literature is because we lack decent politicians in our land. He believed that we rarely had any decent politician in the past two decades and since the political leaders in Iran were liars and cheaters, they had not been able to offer us good literature in politics; because "literature is the art of honesty and truth", he said. Now I realize that I was mistaken and he was right. Because last week, Mousavi gave out his statement no. 11 (11th statement after the rigged elections) and I think the text is painfully beautiful. Indeed, it satisfies that part of my desire that constantly craves for beauty.

The text is simple, lucid, fluid, and without all the tosses and bumps and difficult words that one would find in conventional political statements in Persian. Yet, while being simple, it is original, authentic, and intellectual. It is official and friendly at the same time (unlike Ahmadijad's speeches which are always written in such a populist manner while being cheap, rude, full of nasty street jokes, and grammatically twisted). The text is a bit long and since you do not have the experience of living in Iran, it would not be fully tangible for you. So, I am just going to point to some interesting parts of the text.

In this statement, he speaks of the establishment of a new 'social network' called "Green Way of Hope" to organize and include all the efforts of the Iranian nation to achieve freedom. It is strongly stressed that our resistance should not be violent and that we do not have necessary means for political activity. Thus, the creation of a social network is the only option (and perhaps the best option) left for us. In fact, the Green Way of Hope is neither a political party, nor a political front; it is simply a "lifestyle". If we intend to reach to a free lifestyle for which we are all longing for, then we need to start having that lifestyle from now and defy the dictatorship with our lifestyle.

"We use the term 'way' in the name of our establishment to remind ourselves that we are a great nation and would not be satisfied with little achievements and that we shall always continue this 'way' towards wider horizons and greater expectations", the text says.

It also points to the importance of green as the symbol of the movement. I had told you before Martha, that the color green was the element that tied together our hopes and made us realize that we are countless and strong. But, there is further significance into green in our culture which I would write to you later in a separate letter.

"We use the term 'hope' in our network because 'hope' is our soul capital and that the reason this nation has survived so far throughout history is 'hope' and hoping for better days shall keep us alive after these most bitter days in the history of our land". (I think I had written to you about the role of hope in our movement before.)

Explaining the suggested lifestyle of our resistance the text explains: "Let's make each other's homes our destinations. Let's meet more often. Let's open our windows towards each other. Let's build our houses facing each other. If so far, we've only spoken to our friends once every two months by telephone; let's go to each other's home twice a week now. Let's make each other's home the direction for our prayers. Let's make our little chats the means for creating the strongest media. Let's leave our isolation and say 'hi' to our cities." (Mir Hussein in an architect by education and that is why, I guess, he often speaks of homes, houses, windows, and cities.) Dear Martha, this is all new stuff because what the Iranian regime had so hardly tried to do was to separate people, and isolate people from each other under the excuse that mingling and mixing 'might' lead to 'sins' according to religious instructions (that is their twisted understanding of religion, using it as a tool for their filthy intentions). Although we've always tried to defy government's regulations, yet this is the first time, we find a politician who says the same words we've always believed in.

"I've been thinking about what we could do at this stage, and I have to say that apart from what you've been doing so far, I have no further suggestions". Please note he uses the term 'suggestion' and not 'instruction' in this phrase. So far, the leaders of Islamic regime in Iran had always 'instructed' people because they had defined a holy place for themselves and always ordered people to follow them because it is people's religious duty to do so. Of course, no one ever believed in this nonsense and no one ever followed their melancholical orders, but this is the first time a politician speaks politely with people and stand between people and does not talk t us from above. "I am not the leader of your green movement; I am just accompanying it and my shoulders move side by side with yours."

In another part of the text, he says that "every citizen is a nation." I had told you that before the elections some of the main slogans of the campaign were 'every citizen is a campaign' and 'every citizen is a media' and then 'every citizen is a leader' and now "every citizen is a nation". This is also new because so far, they had always said that the 'individual' is not important and what matters is the 'general cause' of the regime and that people have the duty to sacrifice for the well being of the Islamic establishment, but now the importance of every individual is as equal as the importance of an entire nation and the legitimacy of the political system depends of the well being of the individuals.

Anyways, I am going to stop her because I think this letter is getting too long. Just let you know that Big rally coming up next Friday! It is hopefully going to be attended by millions and millions.

Kisses.



September 19, 2009

Dear friends,

Hi and hope all of you are fine.

I am writing you this email to inform you about the very important event that took place last Friday in Iran. I have been following the news on BBC, CNN, France 24, and.... Unfortunately, their reports were not accurate and did not reflect the realities on the ground. This is not to place the blame on them because they did not have free access to Iran due to the Iranian regime's policy of media blockage.

Yesterday (Sep 18th) was the last Friday of Ramadan (holy month in Islamic faith). Since thirty years ago, the last Friday of Ramadan is celebrated as "Rooz-e-Quds =Jerusalem Day" in which the supporters of the Iranian regime (Revolutionary Guards and the Basij paramilitaries) demonstrated in the streets of Tehran and other cities, chanting anti-Israeli slogans and expressing their support for terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah who fight against Israel. But this year, what happened on the ground was completely opposite to what the government had planned.

As you know, ever since the rigged elections in Iran last July, there had been massive demonstrations and protests in Iran, and the protests had been brutally oppressed by military forces of the regime. There had been about 400 casualties and 4000 political prisoners, a great number of whom have been tortured, raped, and killed inside the jails and their bodies burnt or buried in hidden mass graves outside the cities and without informing their families. During the past two months, although there were some dispersed rallies, but people had not had the chance to pour in millions to the streets due to severe oppression and violence of regime's forces. So, since about one month ago, activists in Iran's Green movement have been planning to turn the rallies of the 'Jerusalem Day' against the government because the rally in Jerusalem Day is sponsored by the government (it is legal) and it would have been a disgrace for the government to cancel this rally. Thus, this day was the best opportunity to stab the government from the point where they thought is their strength! We do not have any media for the green movement (all our Medias and newspapers have been closed). So, since one month ago, people have been informing

each other about this event by writing slogans on the walls in the city and also by writing on the money bills.

Two days before the Jerusalem Day, the government assigned three main routes in the city for the rallies; all of which ended at Tehran University. The Revolutionary Guards issued a statement saying that any protestor in green would be "relentlessly crushed". But in direct defiance of their threats, in the Jerusalem Day, all the routes were taken over by people, dressed in Green and chanting anti government slogans. They lost the streets to people. But the government resorted to a filthy trick. They covered Tehran University, the square in front of it, and a few streets around the university with thick clothes and ringed this 'safe zone' with numerous layers of military forces. Inside this safe zone, they brought their supporters (If I am to be very generous, I would say there were maximum 50,000-60,000 supporters in their safe zone!) All the foreign reporters and journalists (who had been handpicked before) were not allowed to report from outside the safe zone. So, what you see on the TV is a stage set design. Do not believe in it. The real rally took place outside this little zone. I believe ever since the protests, this was a biggest rally ever. There are numerous videos and pictures taken by people (with their mobiles) but most of it cannot be uploaded now because the government has completely shut down the entire internet access for the past couple of days fearing from people's pictures and videos. The internet could be accessed again today (with extremely low speed) and the images and videos of the real rally shall come out during this week. I heard CNN and BBC saying there were "tens of thousands!" and "some protestors!" in the streets! This is not accurate. There were millions and millions of Greens out there. All the routes and streets were in our control (if I am to be very stingy, I would say that we were 4-5 million people in the streets). Women, men, young, and old were there. Tehran was under our control and government forces stayed in their 'safe zone' until the late hours of night. People could have easily attacked them, but since the Green movement is non-violent, no one did any harm to them. But a warning was issued in the slogans saying "Dictator! Liar! Listen well! This is the last warning. The Green nation is now ready to revolt". Government forces continuously intimidated people with helicopters and military vehicle.

The main slogan of the rally was:

"No to Gaza, No to Lebanon...My life only belongs to Iran".

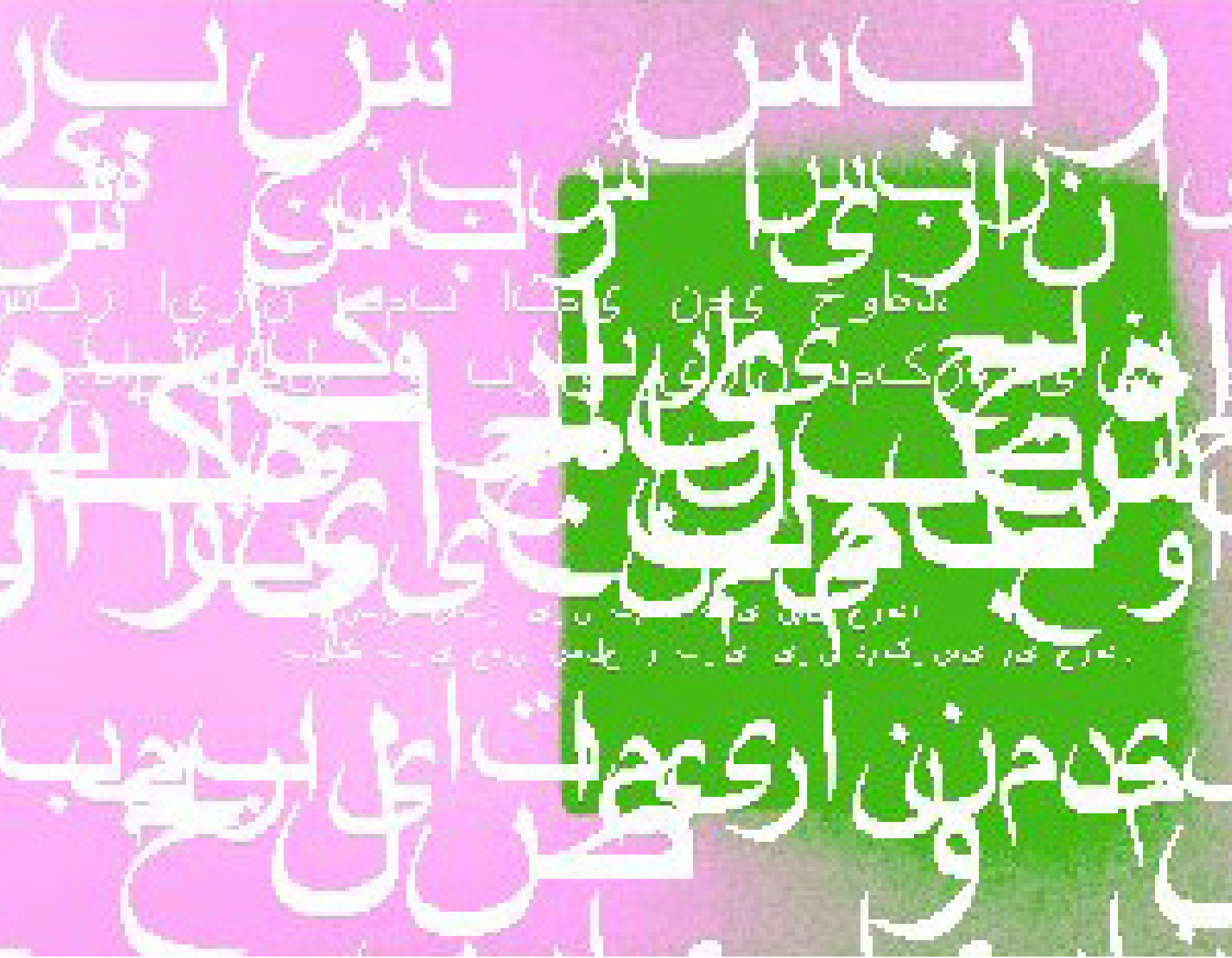
This is exactly opposite what the government had planned. It is a direct message saying that we do not want our government to sponsor terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah in Gaza and Lebanon. Several pictures and Hassan Nasrallah (hezbollah's leader) and Ismael Hanniah (hamas's

prime minister) were burnt and the chants of "Putin, Chavez, and Nasrallah.... They are all enemies of our nation" could be heard everywhere. There were loud speakers on the streets, installed by the government continuously saying "Death to Israel", but these speakers were demolished by people and chants of "Death to Dictator" could be heard at its loudest. This day turned into a hell for the government. The general ambience in the streets was quite emotional. Strangers hugging and kissing each other and saying "congratulations" (I do not know congratulations for what! But I guess for such a strong unity and hope that existed amongst people despite all the crimes and oppression of government forces.) Friday, Tehran was cloudy and gray (it rained a bit sometimes) and there was a continuous howling wind which doubled and tripled people's chants in the air. Leaders of the movement (Mir Hussein Mousavi, Mehdi Karubi, and Mohammad Khatami) were also seen amongst people but could not stay till the end due to the security threats. Other cities such as Shiraz, Isfahan, Mashhad, Tabriz, Kermanshah, Rasht, and ... had had more or less similar situation.

In the following links, you can see some images. But more images will come out during the coming week.

<http://www.mowjcamp.com/article/id/33207>

I send my hugs and kisses for all of you, my dear and lovely friends.



تذکرہ مہتممین مدیریت مدرسہ الہیہ کراچی

تعارف: مہتممین مدرسہ الہیہ کراچی
تعارف: مہتممین مدرسہ الہیہ کراچی

محمد مراد اور محمد اعلیٰ صاحب

September 28, 2009

Dear friends

Hope all of you are fine.

I am going to quickly inform you about the latest developments here.

1- After Jerusalem day, the green movement has entered a new phase and the government seems to be very angry about it. In his last trip to New York, when Ahmadinejad was offering his speech in the UN general assembly, 149 countries (out of 192 UN members) left their seats as a sign of protest to his racist comments (This is a record in the UN history). Plus, as I heard, thousands of Iranians and foreigners (I cannot verify the exact number) demonstrated in New York City against Ahmadinejad. So, in general, his trip was very unsuccessful and he was humiliated (I dearly thank all countries who left their seats during his speech). The government blames the people who demonstrated in Jerusalem day for Ahmadinejad's humiliation. Thus, since a week ago, the government is sacking large number of people from their jobs! Huge number of people who work in different ministries, schools, universities, factories, industrial plants, agricultural institutions, telecommunication systems, and all sort of official and semi-official administrations are being sacked! So, in the coming few months, I guess, tens of thousands of people will lose their jobs and become unemployed. The government is taking revenge for Jerusalem day and Ahmadinejad's humiliation. These people are being kicked out without any reason and only out of government's anger. Instead, pro-government forces (like Basijis) will replace these skilled people. I don't know how do they want to run a country with thugs! By doing this, the government is also trying to make sure that the official institutions would not be affected by any possible strike in the future. People are anxious; being unemployed and also expecting the coming international sanctions, they are getting prepared for economic hardship. Nevertheless, everyone I have spoken to remains committed to carry on the resistance. The national scale strike will come and the illegitimate government and corrupted regime shall fall. That's for sure.

2- Schools and universities have opened again and they will be playing crucial role in pushing forward the green movement. University students are very angry because some of their classmates have been killed, jailed, and raped in the previous unrests. So, there will be daily rallies

and demonstrations inside universities (universities were opened three days ago and there were daily unrests inside universities in the past three days). Some students have been arrested but the unrests grow larger day by day. Also, every day at 4 pm (when schools close), there are mini-scale rallies and unrests all over the city when students exit the school (especially high schools).

3- In the past week, the state TV and pro-government newspapers have ruthlessly and openly insulted Mousavi, Karubi, and Khatami who are the main three figures of the green movement (this is all out of government's anger)! So, activists in green movement have been planning to demonstrate their support for the green leaders. Tomorrow (Sep 29th) is Mousavi's birthday who will turn 68. Next week (on Oct 6th) is Karubi's birthday who will turn 72. And a week after that (on Oct 13th) is Khatami's birthday. People are planning to celebrate their birthdays in the streets. Three consecutive weeks of green birthdays. Now that I am writing to you, lots of people (including almost all my neighbors) are baking cakes and buying chocolates. Tomorrow, despite all dangers, people will come to streets and share chocolates and cakes for Mousavi's birthday. There will be a gathering at 7 pm in central Tehran to throw numerous green balloons to the sky. These public ceremonies will be repeated for Karubi's and Khatami's birthdays too. It will not be a rally. Just a gathering and singing 'happy birthday to you' songs. I think it is an interesting idea, but it should only be done as a tactic in our resistance. Celebrating politician's birthdays should not become a bad habit in the long run.

4- And finally, this Thursday there will be negotiations between 5+1 countries (US, UK, France, Russia, China, Germany) and Iran on the nuclear issue. It is a pity that the west has decided to talk to this illegitimate government. But, I am sure the talks will fail. However, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, who is the representative of Mousavi and Karubi in Paris, has issued the following statement which I thought might be interesting for you to read. (please note that the English translation is not mine. I am also putting the original text in persian which should be read from right to left!):

ناهج نادنورهش

قیقود روط هب نان آ یاه هاگدی زا و مسامت رد زبس شبنج ناراکردن ا تسد اب کی دزن زا هک یسک ناو نع هب نم
ده اوخ یم ن یم تا بمب نارایا زبس شبنج هک منک مالعا اکیرم آ هژیو هب و ایند هب ما هدش لوئسم مراد عالطا
کرد ار یناهج هعماج یاه ینارگن نارایا زبس شبنج .ده اوخ یم یسارکم د نارایا یارب و حلص ناهج یارب هکلب
دراد یهباشم یاه ینارگن زین دوخ و دنک یم

ناری ای اتدوک عورشیم ریغ تلود طسوت هک یدادرارق ای قفاوت عون ره مه دعالطا هک ما هدش فظوم روط نیمه
دروم هدنی آرد و هدوب رابتعا دقاف تسا ناری مدرم تیرثکا تیماح دروم هک زبس شبنج فرط زا دوش اضم
تفرگ ده اوخ رارق ینی بزباب.

فابل مخ نسح
2009 ربم اتپس 22

"Citizens of the World

As someone who is in contact with prominent members of the Green Movement in Iran, and as someone who is intimately informed of their points of view, I declare to the world, particularly to the people and government of America, that the Iranian Green Movement does not want a nuclear bomb, but instead desires peace for the world and democracy for Iran. The Green Movement in Iran furthermore understands the world's concerns and in fact has similar concerns itself.

I have been also entrusted with the responsibility of informing the world that any accord or agreement signed with the current coup-empowered illegitimate government of Iran is considered bereft of legitimacy by the Green Movement, which enjoys the support of a majority of the Iranian people; all such agreements will be subject to review in future."

Mohsen Makhmalbaf

22/09/2009

My best regards



October 9, 2009

Dear Martha

I am still ill now. I got this allergy to early fall season and my eyes are itching and I feel something is burning inside my eyes; and it is a bit hard for me to keep my eyes fully open. However, I heard the news that Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize (!!!!!x1000). And this news came as an insult and a stab from behind; my heart is badly burning that I almost do not feel my eyes burning anymore!

Since mid-summer some Iranian Green activists abroad made an official application to the Nobel Committee to nominate 'Iran's Green Movement' as this year's winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. They also suggested Mehdi Karubi to receive the prize on behalf of Iran's Green Movement due to his endless efforts to foster peace and democracy in Iran (I often speak of Mousavi, but I have to acknowledge that during the last four months, Mehdi Karubi's brave initiatives and efforts for the Green Movement had been stronger and more effective than Mousavi's). Yet, just a couple of weeks ago, the Nobel committee replied that the Green Movement in Iran will not be considered this year (They said maybe next year!) and that there are more "URGENT"(!) cases who deserve to receive the support of Nobel Peace Prize. I was really curious to know the person who is in "urgent" need to this prize and the winner came as a shock!

What has Barack Obama done to win this prize? He has spoken of peace and hope, but his actions have proved the opposite. I believe that so far, he has had a very negative profile on human rights issue. I can point to his policies towards Russia, Venezuela, and China in which he has tried to improve US's relationships with those repressive states, for economic purposes, while closing his eyes on human rights issues in those states. And his position towards Iran and the Green movement could be just expressed in two words: shameful, and catastrophic.

When Neda and Sohrab were shot and Taraneh was being raped; and during the time the entire people of the world were worried about Iranians and expressed their support, US administration preferred to remain almost silent! And after four months of restless efforts by Iranian people, and at a time even Ahmadinejad was about to believe that his government is illegitimate; Barack

Obama proposed to start negotiations and talks with the rapist regime of Iran! Solving Iran's nuclear issue should not be considered Obama's effort to achieve piece. If US administration really believed in peace, they should have supported the Green Movement whose leaders mentioned, and whose people clearly demonstrated that they want "democracy for Iran and peace for the world". In Iran, we are convinced that Obama prefers Ahmadinejad to remain a weak president. Since Ahmadinejad has lost legitimacy inside, Obama is taking the opportunity (abusing the situation) to impose unfair conditions on Iran. During the latest talks, they forced Iran to give up its rights to enrich Uranium inside Iran and in return they offered nothing! They did not remove economic sanctions and did not even let Iran to get into World Trade Organization. That is exactly what US wants and Ahmadinejad is willing to succumb to that because he is weak and illegitimate. You should not be surprised that today, Ahmadinejad congratulated Obama for his Peace Prize and hoped "he shall continue his efforts for peace"!(Please note that Obama has ordered to close a department in US foreign office whose main task was to watch and monitor human rights issues in Iran!)

But Ahmadinejad and Obama are both mistaken. Iran's Green movement will prevail. Ahmadinejad and the corrupted regime shall fall. Our future democratic government will not recognize any agreement Ahmadinejad and Obama signed together. We will conduct our foreign relationships in favor of our national interests and in a way that satisfies our national pride. And we will enrich Uranium inside Iran for peaceful purposes. US administration, which possesses more than 2000 nuclear bombs, has no right to impose unfair conditions on Iran and Iranians.

In the past four months, the Green movement has offered at least 400 martyrs to achieve democracy for Iran and peace for the world. 4000 prisoners are being tortured, raped, killed inside jails, and put on show trials. The regime has brutally shed blood in the streets, but despite all that, there are daily demonstrations (especially in the universities now).

Who deserves the peace price; The Green Movement or Barack Obama? Maybe the Nobel committee does not like Mehdi Karubi (because he happens to be an Old Cleric; who is ironically fighting for democracy, and not for religion), but couldn't at least, the price been given to people like 'Hengameh Shahidi'? (She is one of most active members of Iran's movement for Women's rights. She is now in jail and tortured by not letting her to use the bathroom for several days and her health is seriously in danger. She has not been allowed to see her baby daughter for more than 100 days by now, and despite all that, she refuses to make false confessions and keeps saying that she is proud to be part of the Green Movement). Couldn't the price be given to 'Mansoor Osanloo'? (He is Iran's most senior activist for Workers' movement. He is now in jail and tortured to an

extent that he is now on the edge of insanity). Couldn't the prize be given to 'Behrooz Javid-Tehrani' or 'Abdollah Momeni'? (They are activists of Iran's students' movement. They are now in jail and there is no news of Behrooz; he might be dead now!) Couldn't the prize be given to 'Ahmad Zeidabadi'? (He is a journalist and a writer who is in jail because he criticized Iran's supreme religious leader in his article. His jail is reportedly as small and dark as a grave)

Who deserved the peace prize; People like Hengameh, Mansoor, Behrooz, Ahmad, and Abdollah? Or people like Barack Obama?

The fact is that Iran's Green Movement is far greater than Nobel Peace Prize. Had the Prize been given to Green Movement, it would have been an honor for the Nobel Institution and not for us! But the reason I insist so much on this issue is because we are in "URGENT" need for help and support. Had the Prize been given to any of the people mentioned above, the government could not have kept them in jail anymore! (In that case, keeping them in jail would have put enormous pressure on the government, and this government is too weak to afford further international pressure). Giving the prize to the Green Movement would have been a help to Iranians because it would have shed international light on the issues in Iran and the government couldn't have been able to kill the people in the streets so easily and oppress a movement that has received a Nobel Prize. Giving the Prize to us would have helped us to ask international watchdogs to come to Iran and see what is happening inside the jails. It could have helped us prepare an international tribunal for the heads of Iranian regime for their crimes against humanity. The price is 1.4 million Euros. We could have used this money to establish a TV station abroad (with high frequency and low symbol rate so that it could override the government's parasites). Lack of media is very painful for us. We are using money bills and walls in the city for our communication. People cannot freely walk and talk. Even in the rallies people have to cover their faces to avoid getting caught in surveillance cameras. The bank accounts of all the people and institutions that helped the Green Movement has been blocked and confiscated by the government. The Green Movement is in shortage of money and funds. That 1.4 million Euros for an independent Green TV station would have been a help. What does Nobel Prize stand for? Helping a democratic movement? Or pampering an already powerful president?

Anyways, I strongly condemn the Nobel Committee's decision to award Obama because he doesn't deserve it. I am sure this whole game was done as a dirty political coordination between the Nobel Committee and Barack Obama who has proved to have an insatiable desire for fame and popularity; even for fake purposes (Not much different from Ahmadinejad in this particular manner).

Dear Martha

I would like to ask you to spread my words to different people. Because I know very well that the people in the west and in the US have open conscious, peaceful heart, and Green spirit. They understand that actions speak louder than words. Some people just talk of peace, but others sacrifice their lives for achieving it.

October 9, 2009

Dear Martha,

I am going to inform you about the events that took place this week in Tehran. Unlike the previous week in which four major demonstrations had taken place, this week there was no major rally or demonstration. I heard of dispersed demonstrations here and there, but I did not see anything myself. We expect next week to be also relatively calm, but from the week after that, rallies and demonstrations will start again. Plus, tomorrow Friday, I think there would be some clashes in the Friday prayers near Tehran University. Meanwhile the amount of green slogans and political graffiti has dramatically increased all over the city.

However, this week something important happened which would be very useful for the future. One of the main goals is to paralyze the entire country and make it impossible for the government to rule. And along this line, there are plans for a mass strike on a national scale. As I mentioned before, the strike would not be successful unless Tehran Grand Bazaar and its wealthy merchants join the green movement as a first step, and then the strike could be rapidly extended to other sections of economy and industry. So, the idea of 'Green Shopping' was first discussed in the internet amongst the activists in the green movement and we tried it yesterday (Aug 12th), and although it was not completely successful, but I think the outcome was promising. The 'green shopping plan' mainly asked the green protestors to go to Tehran Grand Bazaar with green shirts and signs, but without buying anything. Instead of shopping, people were asked to chant in loud voice (not silent rally this time) and ask the shop owners to join the crowd and close their shops. Tehran Grand Bazaar is a very large area of the city consisting of about 300 intertwined and complex network of traditional streets and alleys which are all roofed (in brick vaults) and divided into different sections (Jewelery section, Carpet section, Food section, ...). Although the entire Bazaar is as big as two or three neighborhoods, yet it has very few entrances (and exits) to this large urban complex. So, Wednesday morning I went there early morning and the entire bazaar was full of Basij and police. They had put two Basij members for each shop in order to prevent them from closing their shops (the government is very afraid of a strike in the bazaar). Gradually the green protestors arrived. Unbelievable! We were so countless that the entire bazaar was packed with people in green. It was quite difficult to walk and breathe! The bazaar was almost paralyzed and the shop owners gradually prepared themselves to close their

shops because they were afraid any clash would harm their properties and that amongst all these 'shoppers(!)' almost no one shopped at all! The crowd was very huge, but due to the presence of Basij, people did not chant. They only smiled to each other and showed each other 'V' signs with their fingers. The Basij were furious and cursing at the people non-stop!

Then at about 11, Zahra Rahnavard (Mousavi's wife) arrived and entered the bazaar. Then the crowd exploded with chants of 'Mousavi, Mousavi, we support you' and 'death to dictator'. She was quickly taken out of the bazaar by the security forces but people continued to chant. The Basij tried to attack the people but since the bazaar was so packed with people, they could not arrest anyone (as far as I saw). Finally, some of the shop owners closed their shops but I could hear the Basij forcing them to keep the shop open otherwise they would set it on fire! (I could smell some smoke coming from far away, I guess, maybe they had actually set some shops on fire) As I was exiting the bazaar at midday, I could see that about 10% of the shops were closed. The entire Jewellery and Gold section of bazaar was closed and the rest were forced to remain open! I could also see that the wealthy shop owners in the grand bazaar also chanted with people and I realized that their hearts is with the green movement, but have not been able to join the movement due to their fear.

Dear Martha,

I do not know whether you have heard about the 'Kahrizak' prison in southern Tehran. But there is some news (which come from trustable sources) that huge crimes against humanity are taking place inside this prison. Unbelievable and horrifying ways of torture! I would not describe anything to you right now because I am afraid some of the people who read this letter might have heart problems and if they learn about those severe tortures, they might faint! Just would tell you that the ways of torture in this prison are so dreadful that 'rape' would seem 'nothing' compared to them! These news are leaking out and it has caused a turmoil in the society and even amongst some of the politicians who support Ahmadinejad. Their party are being gradually divided into different sections and sub-parties. I hope they would rip each other off! The weaker they become, the sooner victory shall arrive.

A big kiss.

October 14, 2009

Dear Martha

It has been a few weeks my mind cannot rest and I cannot think straight! My friends tell me: "Mostafa. you have become like weather. Your mood changes all the time. Except that weather could be predicted, but your mood cannot be!"

Right now, I prefer to remain silent about what is going on in my mind. Not because I don't trust you. I definitely and certainly trust you (my letters are proof to that). It is just that I cannot find the right words even when I want to talk to myself about this issue. It should settle down in my mind and then, I will share it with you.

About leaving Iran, Yes, I am very seriously considering it. Me being here is of no use, and there is no hope (hope is something that never completely dies, but to be realistic, I have to admit that the situation will get even worse).

But where should I go?? (The first question of a refugee)

It would be hard to come to US, due to visa issues.

I personally prefer Europe (Spain, France, or Italy). But even if I move to one of these countries, what should I do?? (Second question of a refugee)

I know there is high rate of unemployment in US and EU. So, the chance of getting a job is low. I have great passion for teaching. But I have no experience because I failed the ideology test here. Although I know I have a lot of great ideas for teaching, but the fact that I am just 29, makes it hard for a university to give me a job, even as assistant professor. Plus, most of universities require the teachers to have EU work permit, and also a PHD.

As you know, I wanted to take a PHD. I am still thinking about it. I am planning to apply to a couple of universities in France and Italy. (Universities in US and UK are too expensive) Once I get admitted, I shall hopefully travel to peruse a PHD degree. But I have to also think of a source of income. Because I wouldn't be able to afford living and studying for 2-3 years in Europe without any source of income. All Iranians (except the rulers) are now in economic trouble.

Due to vast corruption of the government, and also economic sanctions imposed by US, everyone is now going through economic hardship.

But you know Martha, I don't like to just think of problems. This is life. All problems I mentioned in this letter could be solved. But if I move out of Iran, a number of things would never heal. Being away from home, family, Tehran and its mountains, and Plus, when I move out of Iran, it would be an admission that I (and my people) got defeated by the Iranian regime and its western allies (I am not fooled by their show off enmity). Living as a defeated refugee for the rest of my life is something that can't be healed.

A Boos.

PS, I will respond to your other email soon.

Boos

Mostafa.



October 18, 2009

Dear Martha,

Hope you are fine. You had written to me that you wanted to respond to my previous letter, but I did not get any response yet (I know you are busy traveling and teaching). But I suggest you include your response under my letter so that these letters would not only be my monologues and that so that these letters could help form a dialogue in your facebook. You know me well dear Martha. I have critical vision and happy about it. I shall continue criticizing any person I believe is worthy of criticism (That is why I never criticize Ahmadinejad, I only scandalize him!). You and doug should not be offended if I criticize Barack Obama. I also criticize people whom I like (such as Mousavi). I have so far written 9 articles (in Persian- and anonymously), and published in different Green websites (including Mousavi's own website-kaleme.net) and criticized Mousavi -sometimes in strong words - for his "too slow" and "too patient" manner in leadership. (These websites are all filtered and blocked, but accessible by using several softwares of filter-breakers. Most of the Greens have access to these softwares.) That is the essence of Green Movement; every citizen is a leader, and the leader, only a simple citizen.

Anyways, two topics today

Universities

There are daily protests inside universities now. Universities opened three weeks ago, and so far, 29 protests and rallies have been reported from universities; some of them were small (100-200 people) and some were larger; like the last one in Azad University in Poonak district in west Tehran; attended by 3500-4000 people. There are 25 universities in Tehran. Some of them are campus type universities (like Tehran University). So, people outside cannot participate. Students try to push the rally to the main gates of the campus to involve outside people. There are also some universities (like the Azad University) that do not have a central campus and every faculty and department has a separate building; so, the university is practically scattered across the city. These types of universities are now more active because they can better engage people to join the rallies.

There aren't much teaching and learning in the universities this year. Everything is about politics. Students refuse to attend lectures by pro-government professors. Sometimes they attend the lectures but do not let the lecturer to speak by chanting "death to dictator" all the time.

Basiji paramilitaries have been stationed inside universities now (so, it is more like a military camp than a university) and students' main demand is that all military forces and armed personnel should be dismissed from universities. Students are under threat and pressure. So far, 27 students have been arrested; more than 150 students have been permanently dismissed from universities, about 100 students kicked out of the dorms (for chanting 'Allahu Akbar'), and one student was shot and killed inside the campus of Tehran Poly-technique university by Basiji militias. (This is all in Tehran. There are protests in other cities too.)

Green Art

Political events happen very fast here. There are daily news of protests, meetings, and.... All this, I believe, is consuming our time, and we are not fully aware of how fast and dramatic our vision towards art is changing. Under the skin of politics, there is a major renaissance in art happening in Iran now. Since four months ago, there have been huge amounts of art works produced by ordinary people as way of life and resistance. These works of art are not sophisticated, but rather banal and primitive for they reflect one's instantaneous feelings and optimistic dreams. If you go to the streets, there are lots of posters and flyers designed by ordinary people (printed and thrown into the streets) celebrating Green Movement. You can hardly find two similar posters because they are so diverse in subject and style. If you visit Green websites, there are endless works of literature (poem and prose) about Green Movement. Some of these poems are also printed and thrown into the streets. Money bills are also manipulated and transformed into art works. In the beginning, money bills were only used as a way of communication. But now, every person writes his/her wishes, dreams, desires, and visions about the future free-Iran, and they are so diverse and different. I sometimes get scared by all this diversity, but I believe Iran has the capacity to be the land where all these different dreams and visions could come true. Music is also booming; everyday there are new songs (produced illegally underground) and uploaded in the internet so that people can download them (despite low speed) [I am so lousy in computer stuff, but other people have better ways in using internet despite low speed].

Performance art is also starting to appear. In the rallies inside universities, some students try to perform while demonstrating, but these performances are often disrupted when Basijis attack the rallies.

There are also several paintings. People draw these paintings, then scan or photograph them, then print them on the paper and throw them in the streets. I heard that even Mousavi has drawn a big painting titled "We are countless", but have not been able to see a picture of it yet (Mousavi is an architect but has held 11 exhibitions of his paintings in the past 20 years. I like that his paintings are very abstract, but what I don't like is that he uses too many colors in them)

What strikes me in this artistic movement that is now happening under the skin of the city is that these works of art are not political! That is very strange because there is a political cause behind all these art works, but the result is usually not political. The subject of these art works are often about the 'celebration of life' and how they like their life to be, and I often feel that what people really want to say in these art works is that 'life is worth living' and that the act of 'living' is in itself a value. This is very different from what the government has tried to teach people (Gov. Tries to say that there are values in life -religious and revolutionary - that one has the duty to 'die' for!)

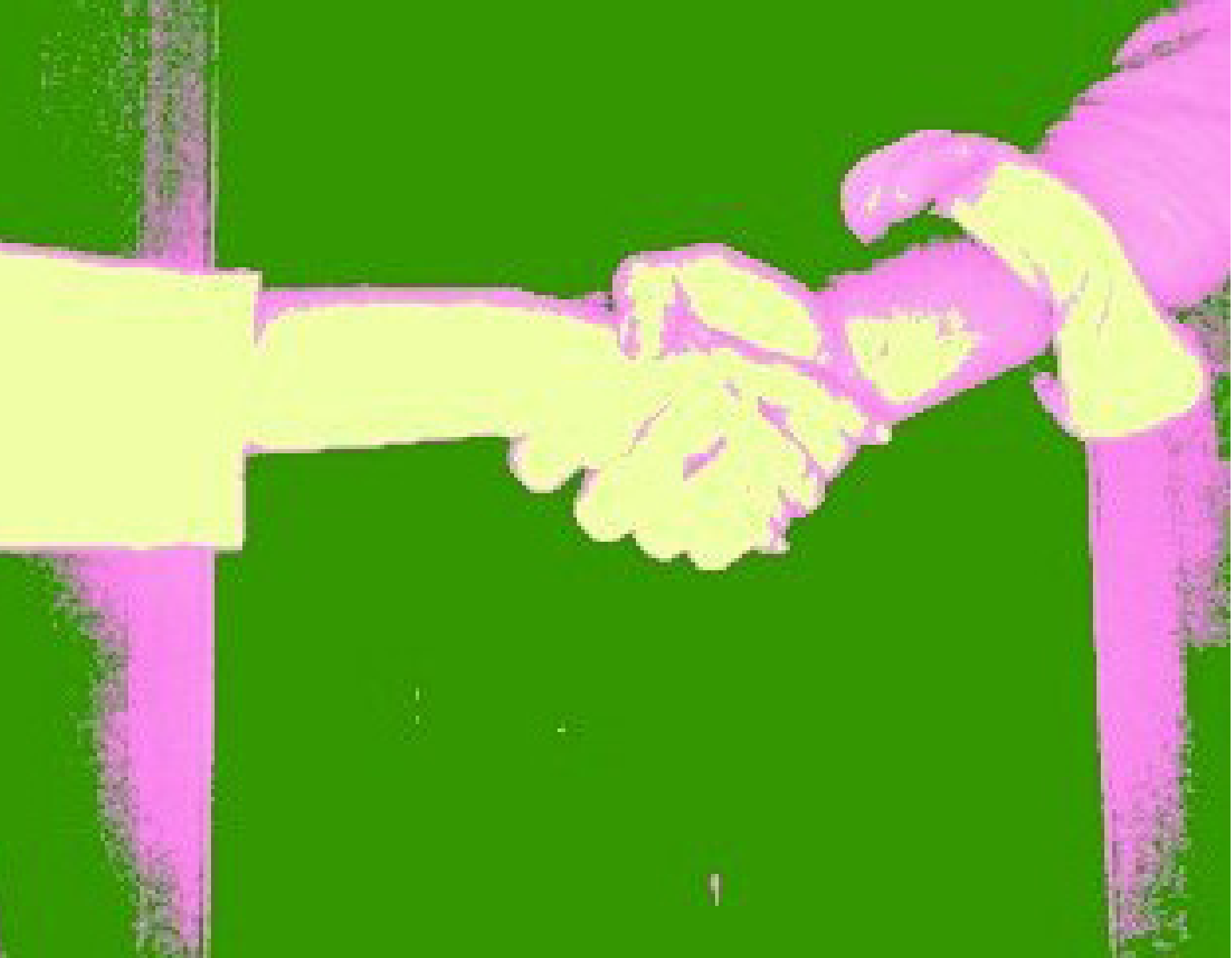
Producing art, and living through art is now becoming a 'life-style' for the supporters of the Green Movement or the followers of 'the Green Way of Hope'. But, I believe, this is not 'political art'. Politics was only a trigger for its creation. This art is for the sake of 'life' -or as I like to think - this is art for the sake of art. No one gains money out of this. There are threats and dangers for producing these arts. But people do it out of joy and not out of duty. This is art for the sake of its purity.

Dear Martha,

You told me that people who read these letters liked the sequence of "Every citizen is ..."

So, let's continue the sequence.

First (before the elections), "Every Citizen is a Campaign". And then, "Every Citizen is a Media", "Every Citizen is a Leader", "Every Citizen is a Nation", and now, 'Every Citizen is an Artist'!



October 22, 2009

Dear Martha,

I read your comments on my letter. I am glad that our ideas differ and such difference is expressed in a dialogue. About my anger in writing that letter, I have to say since 'writing' is my passion; I always deliberately express my sentiments in my writings (you have to read my texts in Persian!). Also, in extraordinary days and times, it is hard to control one's emotions. Emotional rush is inevitable and logic and patience is necessary for these days.

So, to continue this issue, I am going to translate for you the latest letter of Mohsen Makhmalbaf to President Obama. Mohsen Makhmalbaf is an Iranian film director (who has won several world prizes for his movies) and right now, he is the representative of Green Movement in Paris. Since Mousavi and Karubi are under extreme pressure here, Makhmalbaf often issues Green Movement's Foreign policies on their behalf.

The coming 4th of November there is going to be a big rally coming up again hopefully attended by millions and millions. This letter to President Obama is about that day. But before translating the letter, I am going to point to two historical events so that you could understand the letter in its historical context.

Event 1: In 1950, and during the reign of Shah, Iran had a very liberal and democrat Prime Minister, called 'Mohammad Mosadeq'. Shah was a political dictator, oppressing his political opponents, but people were relatively free in social affairs. Mosadeq's main program was to bring democracy to Iran, opening up the political field, limiting Shah's power, and giving the main power to the parliament. Basically he wanted to establish a political system similar to Britain in Iran where the Shah remains an iconic Monarch while the main power would be in the hands of democratically chosen parliament. Mosadeq gained some success in the beginning, but in Aug 19th, 1951, the US government conducted a Coup d'Etat in Iran overnight, bringing down Mosadeq, obliterating his democratic programs, restoring the absolute power in Shah's hands, and ruining the dreams of many Iranians for a democratic state. (The US administration confesses to have conducted such a coup). This coup severely hurt Iranians and created an atmosphere of hate and mistrust between two countries and paved the way for radical Islamic groups to justify their

violent and revolutionary behavior that finally brought down Shah from power in 1979. This coup also made Iranians feel humiliated and hurt their national pride and made them feel powerless to the plans of what they described as "US Imperialism".

Event 2: In 4th of November, 1980, after the victory of Islamic Revolution in Iran, Radical Students from University of Tehran (early revolutionary guards) attacked the US embassy in Tehran and took all the diplomats as hostages and kept them for 444 days before they were released and sent back to US. This attack was against all international conventions. I personally condemn this attack, but I believe it was the result of more than 20 years of hatred that finally burst on November 4th. After this attack, US cut off its political, economic, social, and all other sorts of relationships to Iran, applying economic sanctions. This situation continues to the present day.

Every year, on November 4th, (Often referred as 'Anti-Imperialism Day') the Iranian regime holds a rally in Tehran celebrating the attack on the US embassy (which they call "The Nest of Spies"!). But this year, the story is going to be different. Green people will come to streets again to protest against the regime and ruin their day! Green movement plans to condemn the attack on US embassy, and rename 4th of November as:

"The Day of Friendship between the peoples of Iran and US".

Here is Makhmalbaf's letter to President Obama:

"Dear Mr. Obama,

I invite ourselves and you to the way and manner of Nelson Mandela who after many years of jail and torture said: "I cannot forget, but I can forgive."

We, as Iranians, have shown that we have not been able to easily forget all the misery that happened to us in the past 58 years because of the American Coup d'Etat in Iran. During these 58 years, instead of experiencing democracy and freedom, at least three generations of Iranians have been dealing with the consequences of that coup during the Shah and the reactions to that coup after the revolution. But now, after a painful and learning experience, we have reached to the point of being able to forgive you.

In other hands, we understand that attacking the US embassy and taking the diplomats as hostages by our revolutionary youth have deeply hurt your nation, and forgetting that event is very difficult for you. We apologize to you and hope that you would forgive us.

We suggest that instead of correcting the past, Iranians and Americans correct today's relationships for their futures. We suggest to declare 4th of November as the 'The Day of Friendship between the peoples of Iran and US'. Today the need to extend our hands towards each other is far greater than before; and today we need to help each other to eliminate nuclear bombs, terrorism, and dictatorship more than ever.

November 4

October 31, 2009

Dear Martha,

The coming Wednesday (November 4th), there will be another big rally hopefully attended by many millions (I have written to you about the significance of 4th of November before). I think the entire internet system will be shot down a couple days before and after this big rally. So, I am going to send you this letter now and will write to you later after the big rally.

Three topics today:

1-Mourning Mothers

The mothers of the victims of the green movement have formed a committee called "The committee of mourning mothers". So far, about 350 mothers have joined the committee (This proves my estimation that there are about 400 victims. The government claims they have killed only 17! Always lying!!). These mothers hold rallies every Saturday in 'Laleh Park' in central Tehran. Every week more and more people join this rally as a sign of support for mourning mothers. Last week, the number of people became so big that it scared the government. So, the Basijis attacked the people and the mourning mothers and bit them up with clubs and tear gas. However, the committee issued a statement that it will hold rallies every Saturday and in different parks of Tehran. Today the rally was hold in 'Saei Park' and many people went there and gave flowers to the mourning mothers. In the committee's statement it is said that the mothers insist on punishing those who ordered and killed their sons and daughters, but it stresses that the mothers do not want anyone to be executed for that reason and that capital punishment should be eliminated from Iran's laws once and for ever.

2-Green Accidents

People are using car accidents as opportunities for mini-protests. Every time there is a car accident in the street, lots of people gather around to check out what happened (Iranian habit- Being nosy!). At this time, usually someone starts chanting "Death to Dictator", "long live Karubi and Mousavi", and "Freedom" and the rest of the people start chanting as well. The crowd disappears once the Police are getting close to the accident scene!

4-Green Brides

I have seen some brides and grooms in their cars in the street and strangely many of the brides dress up in Green! In Iran, like everywhere else in the world, the brides dress in white, but recently I have seen some brides dressed in light Green and without any make up. Removing make up is usually a sign of 'mourning' for the green victims. That is how deep the Green cause has penetrated people's lives.

5-Hengameh Shahidi

I had written to you about Hengameh Shahidi before. She is a journalist and a human rights activist (especially in the field of women's rights). She was in the campaign of Mehdi Karubi before the elections. She has been held in jail for about 120 days now. She is allowed to use the bathroom only once every three days and has become very ill now. She has been beaten up and tortured in the jail. She has also been artificially executed four times so far; meaning that they hang her but they cut the rope in the last second so she remains alive! She has not seen her baby girl for 120 days now and has become ill and depressed. They have asked her to come to the TV and confess that the Green Movement is a US/UK conspiracy and that she regrets joining the green movement. They have also asked her to confess that she had had illicit sexual relationships with the leaders of the Green Movement!! But she has resisted and said that if time goes back hundred times, she will join the green movement hundred more times. After all these tortures, since six days ago, she started a hunger-strike in the jail. She even refuses to take her pills. She has said that either she will be freed or die in the jail, but she won't make false confessions.

I am very worried. She is a very resilient woman. It would be a big loss for Iran to lose a woman like Hengameh! We have to wait and see who will break sooner. Could the fascists break her resistance or would she defeat them with her death? I hope for a miracle so that she would be freed soon. Here, you can find a picture of her:

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/image_library/24/27/28672.jpg

I will hopefully write to you after the November 4th rally.



November 12, 2009

Dear Martha,

Thanks for asking about the big rally on November 4th. I wanted to write to you earlier but I just came back home today morning.

As you know, last Wednesday there was a big rally in Tehran and other cities, but the revolutionary guards attacked people and used a lot of violence, and again, I saw unforgettable scenes and images in the streets. Although Wednesday was a working day, but almost 80% of all shops in Tehran were closed and most of people did not go to work in order to attend the big rally. This is a positive sign and a first step towards a strike. From early morning, people gathered in main squares of the centre of the city. But revolutionary guards brutally attacked people, beating them with clubs, batons, knives, and also occasionally using live rounds. Especially towards women, the guards used more violence. I saw a lot of women (and also men) bleeding in the streets. I suggest you to watch the following two footages which show the violence against women last Wednesday. Similar scenes could be seen all over the city.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrpnuWmqwDQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFvtycdGGSE>

They also used a lot of tear gases and pepper gasses to disperse the crowd. So, unlike Jerusalem Day, we could not form a huge uniform rally in the street, but we did not go home either. Countless big and small groups of people dispersed all across the city, taking control of the city for several hours and chanting very strong and radical slogans. These pockets of people could be seen from 'Freedom Square' in the west to '7th of Tir' square in the east; and from 'Vanak Square' in the north to 'Rah Ahan Square' to the south of the city. You can check these names in google earth and see what a big part of the city was under control of people. The amount of violence used this time was similar to that of June demonstrations. But in June there were more than 100 casualties in one rally, but last Wednesday, so far, only two people have been reported dead. This is because people have learned how to demonstrate and minimize their casualties. I

think everyone has been able to form thorough understanding of the spaces in the city in her/his mind and that helps people to perform better in non-violent and flexible street rallies. The slogan this time was not addressed to Ahmadinejad, but directly to Iran's Supreme Religious Leader (Ayatollah Khamenei) who is the main supporter of Ahmadinejad. People ripped off his posters and walked over it and burnt it in the city. This is significant because he is still alive and he is the most powerful man in Iran, but he cannot stop people burning his picture in the same city where he lives! Students in the universities also chanted against the dictator and there are reports of heavy fighting in the University of Allameh (which is solely dedicated to majors in humanities). In a nutshell, Wednesday was a war in the city, from one hand green people who demonstrated peacefully (but with radical slogans) and from the other side heavily armed revolutionary guards who did not hesitate to use violence against unarmed people. Mousavi was put under house arrest for one day to prevent him from coming to streets. Mehdi Karubi came to 7th of Tir square, but the guards attacked him with tear gas and wounded two of his body guards. If you gather all the news together, I think there were about 2 million people in the streets in a working day. Plus, this time, there were reports of rallies in very small cities too, which is a proof that the green movement is growing geographically. There are reports of heavy casualties in the city of Tabriz in north-west Iran. I saw a lot of people being arrested, but no one knows the exact figure.

I went to this rally with my mother. She had come to Jerusalem Day rally and she insisted to come this time as well. My mom has back-ache and she cannot run fast. But I felt much safer with her this time in the streets! We went to 7th of Tir square but had to escape and go to other streets after being attacked by the revolutionary guards. We went into a narrow street, but the guards attacked us from both ends of the street and we were caught in the middle. It was a very scary situation, but the neighbours opened their doors and we went into one of the apartments and escaped from the guards. We were received by a very nice family who kindly let us stay in their home until today morning (Friday). We wanted to leave on Wednesday, but the guards were in the streets until last night and it was risky to come out. But today morning we came back home safe and sound. Nothing to worry about

I went to the roof top of the building and saw a lot of violent scenes taking place in the street. People chanting, being attacked, being beaten up, and But I could not see one single protestor resorting to violence. This is a promise in the green movement: Never use violence.

I would also suggest you to watch the following videos. One of them shows people walking over

the picture of the supreme religious leader. Please note that these videos are taken mobile phones, so, they are not good quality. You can also go to youtube and search for "13 Aban" (4th of November is 13th of 'Aban' in Persian Calender). If you search for "13 Aban girl (or woman)" you can see videos of women being attacked and men trying to defend them, but they would become the subject of violence as well!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tv9XZyXMY0c>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8WH-o3bf_o

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hb9F95iZYDU>

Anyways, my allergy is gone and I am fine now. Thanks for asking. About Hengameh Shahidi, she fainted and is in hospital now. Finally, she freed herself from jail and is in hospital now! I am hearing news that she would probably be bailed out and be free, but would not be allowed to leave Iran until the hearing in the "court" (or to put it in the right

بین بخت و داماد دروختن به
د لوزن پلاک و دیوان در تلوی
رای سپید به نظاره ایستادند
م خضم و یک چشم نفرت، د
گریمت و خون از سر ایو
گاه ستاره ها خاموش شدند

November 15, 2009

Dear Martha,

Feel free to compile the letters. I guess I have sent you more than 60 letters so far. Right?

So, feel free to put them together, remove them, or....

I would like to thank you again for publishing these letters on your facebook despite being very busy.

Today, I am going to translate a poem for you which is written on one of the walls in Tehran. It is a description of the situation in Iran after the coup d'etat. Hope you like it:

دم آرد ه ل ج ه ب ن ي غ و ر د د ا م ا د و ت ف ا ي ن ا ي ا پ ن ي ن و خ ي س و ر ع
د ن د ي ص ق ر ي ك ي ر ا ت ر د ن ا و ي د و د ن د ي ز ر ل د و خ ر ب ا ه ق و د ن ص
د ن د ز ف ك ه د ي ر ب ي ا ه ت س د ا ب ن ا ي ن ا د ن ز و د ن د ا ت س ي ا ه ر ا ط ن ه ب د ي پ س ي ا ه ن ف ك ر د ن ا ي ن ا ب ر ق
د ن د ر ك ه ق ر د ب ا ر د ا م ا د ، ت ر ف ن م ش چ ك ي و م ش خ م ش چ ك ي ن ا ي ن ا ه ج و
ت ش ذ گ ي ر و ه م ج ن ا و ي ا ر س ز ا ن و خ و ت س ي ر گ ش ا ف ر ا گ ز و ر م ش چ
ت ف ر ب ا و خ ه ب ت ل ي ض ف و د ن د ش ش و م ا خ ا ه ه ر ا ت س ه ا گ ن آ و د ي د ن خ ن ا ط ي ش

The bloody wedding finished and the fake groom came to the room

The boxes trembled and the monsters danced in the dark

The victims stood looking around in white coffins and the prisoners clapped with their hands cut off

The people of the world looked at the groom; with one eye full of anger, and the other full of hate

The 'Time' openly wept and the blood dropped from the balcony of the Republic

The Satan laughed and then, the stars extinguished, and 'Knowledge' went to sleep.

Dear Martha,

I do not know who wrote this poem. It was just written on the wall. The person who wrote it seems to have been very depressed, or have lost a loved one. I wish the author had included some verses of 'hope' in the poem as well! But I think the poem is bitter, yet beautiful.

What do you think? Poem found by my friend written on the wall in Tehran

Neda → Voice

'Neda' of Iran

November 25, 2009

Dear Martha,

Hope you are fine and having fun in Brazil.

As you mentioned before, I think it would be a good idea to make some changes in these letters. I have been thinking about it and I realized that so far, it had all been 'my' letters to you (except last one) which you have kindly published in your facebook. I thought that until now, this had been very selfish of me! Until now, I had been the source of information, and you and others who read these letters were the 'media'. Hence, I think from now on, I would become a media myself; an unbiased journalist-citizen; reflecting the opinions of other people to you.

As I mentioned to you before, there are an abundance of art work in Green websites, and in the streets, walls, and money bills in Tehran. Like my last letter, I would translate a poem or a written text (written on the wall or on the money) to you. You can change the name of 'letters from Iran' into 'Voices from Iran' (because I do not know the original authors. Also please also note that 'voice' is 'Neda' is Persian). You can also put these poems and texts in the poem section of your facebook. When internet seems to be a bit faster, I will also try to send you some images (if possible). Meanwhile, if there is an important event or big rally, I would report it as well. (Next big rally would be on December 7th inside all universities and schools).

Today's poem written on a wall dedicated to all those who have been sentenced to death for demanding freedom:

I want to be alive
I want to be alive

He was shaking loudly and shouting loudly:
I want to be alive

They locked his mouth
With a white cloth

They locked his eyes
With a black cloth

And they locked hands
With a silver handcuff

And his legs were begging with a smashing rhythm:
I want to be alive

They set up the hanging post
And brought an old rope

It wasn't a gloomy sunset
Nor a romantic dawn

No paper was read
And no paper was written

They took his arms
With a cold desire

The white cloth became wet
The black cloth was now damp

They opened the silver handcuff
And....



December 9, 2009

Dear Martha,

Thanks for everything.

I haven't written to you lately because I knew you were very busy in Brazil. And I am aware that Brazil is a very happy place. Alex once told me that Rio is probably the only place in the world where you can live without money (ha ha ha)! So, I thought better not write to you these troubling and upsetting letters from Iran and let you enjoy the Salsa with no worries!

As you have heard, last Monday (Dec 7th) was the 'Students' Day' in Iran and there were more than 200 rallies in about 50 cities in Iran. (23 Universities held rallies in Tehran). People joined the students at the universities main gates but both people and students were brutally beaten up and oppressed. 2 people were killed in the city of Hamedan (400 km west of Tehran) and about 250 students arrested in Tehran.

In the past one month, about 400 students and professors were dismissed from universities and 200 students were arrested. The government did all of this hoping that by using violence, students might back off and cancel the 'Students' Day' rally. But the students lashed back all over the country. Rallies started sharp at 12:00 and continued throughout the night. Some students even attacked the residence of Iran's Supreme Religious Leader and promised that soon they will take over his palace. The rallies is not over yet and students have held more protests until today.

Iran's Students' Movement is probably the most energetic, radical, and uncompromising part of the Green movement (Women, Middle Class, Workers, Ethnic Minorities are the other parts of the Green movement).

Students played major role in bringing down the Shah in 1979 and they are repeating it again, this time bringing down the Islamic Regime.

I went near Tehran University of Fine Arts with my car but it was too dangerous, so I pulled back. But, I noticed that all of the basij and the police have gone and concentrated on the universities and there were no police in the other parts of the city at all!! So, I went to the

calm and quiet parts and wrote a lot of political slogans on the walls with Green Spray Paint without any worry. I took my time! I think I probably wrote about 500 slogans on different walls.

Students day rally demonstrated some positive features:

1-That the Green Movement is growing geographically across the country (rallies in more than 50 cities) and the Green wave is successfully removing legitimacy from the government. Day by day, more people join the movement. Now, even some of the most religious and conservative supporters of the government refuse to go into governments' rallies. They have mostly become silent and neutral, and some of very religious people have joined the movement too (good sign).

2-Although the main part of the Green movement are the ordinary secular citizens, yet so far the organizers of the rallies (women, students, workers, ...) have succeeded. The fact that 200 universities start their rally sharp at 12:00 despite all the violence and dangers, shows that the organizers are patiently and wisely pushing the movement forward in a thorough and non-violent fashion.

3-The Green Wave has reached across the World. The government had forbidden foreign reporters and journalists from reporting the student day rallies. The government had also shut down the entire internet system and telephones. But despite all that, more than 2000 TV channels and news agencies across the globe were able to broadcast the news thanks to the footages taken by the mobile phones of the ordinary citizens in the rallies.

4- (This is more like a joke) And finally, Students day coincided with the Copenhagen Summit. While the world leaders were trying to find a way for people to live in a 'Green' Planet, Iranians were trying to find a way to live in a 'Green' democratic state. I would take this as a good Omen!

Next big rally would be held on 26th and 27th of December.

Since I had promised you that in each letter, I will include a poem, here is today's poem: (I saw this at the end of one of the statements made by "The Organization of Iranian Liberal Students and Graduates" who were in charge in organizing one of the rallies in Tehran Polytechnic University. 12 members of this organization have been arrested and in jail now. But other members refuse to stop issuing political statements:

What is it, that is hidden in your hand?

What is it, that is wrapped around your feet?

Oh Freedom...

Are you coming with a chain?

تسا ناھنپ وت تسد رد ھک تسېچ نېا
تسا ھدېچېپ وت ىاپ رد ھک تسېچ نېا
. . . ىدازآ ىا
ىىآ ىم رېجنز اب اىآ

December 11, 2009

Dear Martha,

Hope you are fine and having fun in Brazil.

As you mentioned before, I think it would be a good idea to make some changes in these letters. I have been thinking about it and I realized that so far, it had all been 'my' letters to you (except last one) which you have kindly published in your facebook. I thought that until now, this had been very selfish of me! Until now, I had been the source of information, and you and others who read these letters were the 'media'. Hence, I think from now on, I would become a media myself; an unbiased journalist-citizen; reflecting the opinions of other people to you.

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And no paper was written

They took his arms
With a cold desire

The white cloth became wet
The black cloth was now damp

They opened the silver handcuff
And....



WE DO NOT WANT YOU

December 18, 2009

Dear Martha,

How are you? I guess you are getting prepared for X-mas and New Year's holidays. Where you planning to go?

Here, we are getting prepared for the rallies in 26th and 27th of December. There is daily unrest inside universities. Students go to universities to coordinate and organize their activities but they refuse to attend classes until their classmates are free (now, there are more than 400 students in jail). It's all messed up!

I thought of quoting to you the speech made by one of student activists called 'Majid tavakoli' a few days ago inside the campus of Polytechnic University. This is a scenario that gets repeated almost every day in universities. I am translating it for you from a video taken by a mobile camera from of event.

" Today we are once more here to make our voices heard and to say NO to dictatorship. I address my words to the dictator who lives near our campus.

[Iran's Supreme Religious Leader lives very close to Tehran Polytechnic University]
Mr. Dictator! I think you can hear me from your residence. So, let's make it clear to you that 'University' is alive. You have killed our brothers and sisters. You have raped our classmates. You have tortured our friends. You have dismissed the best of our teachers. Yet today, once more we gather here to let you know that 'we will bring you down'. And despite all your crimes, University is alive. Students are ready to die, but will refuse to live under humiliation.

We do not let you to replace our 'Knowledge' with your 'Superstitions'.
We do not let you to replace our 'Philosophy' with your 'Religion'.
We do not let you to replace our 'Free Thinking' with your 'Illusions'.
We do not let you to replace our ability to analyze with your deceptive pre-conceptions.
And we do not let you to replace our 'dreams' with your 'nightmares'.

[A bit of pause, other students tell him that the revolutionary guards who were outside the campus are ready to attack. But he continues.]

Mr. Dictator! Because of you, the water does not reach the tree of Knowledge in our land.
Because of you, our trees are being cut.
Because of you, our rivers have been dried.
Because of you, the clouds do not rain in our land.
Because of you, our women have no better resort than to be depressed.
Because of you, the pride of our men has been broken.
Because of you, our workers feel ashamed when they look at the eyes of their wives since they can't feed their children.
Because of you, our religious minorities do not dare to pray.
Because of you, our homeland has more enemies than friends in this world.
Because of you our land is not developing anymore.

It is hard for us to open our eyes and confront the fact that our homeland is so behind the rest of world. We should have been a developed country a long time ago. But because of you and your brainwashed thugs, our motherland is getting suffocated.

What have you done to our land? What have you done to us?
Mr Dictator! Shame on you!

[At this point, about 1500 students who were listening to his speech, start chanting "Death to Dictator". And then, the revolutionary guards who were outside, break into the campus and clash with students at the periphery. While the students were fighting with the guards, Majid Tavakoli continues his speech].

Mr Dictator! You and your puppet Ahmadinejad claim you have gotten 25 million votes and 63%! Where are these 25 million? Where is your 63 percent? Why can't we see them? Bring in your fans into streets and let's count.

But we do not care anymore. Our problem is not Ahmadinejad or Mousavi anymore.
Our problem is you.

We do not want you.

Come out of your palace. Take a step into our campus. We are the sons and daughters of your revolution. Come and listen what your children want to say:

'WE DO NOT WANT YOU.'

Come out and see! Your thugs are beating my friends and will take them into jail. But the real prisoner is YOU. You are jailed in your palace and in your illusions. And soon, you and your regime will fall and you will have no better place than the garbage can of history. Your time is over and ... "

[At this point, the guards reached him and he was arrested. Majid is 26 and studies Mechanical Engineering. He had spent 1.5 years in jail for his political activities before. Now, again, Majid is in jail].

December 25, 2009

Dear Martha,

Thanks for the very inspiring email you sent me. I read it more than once and it was very encouraging. In fact, sometimes I don't feel very well and part of it is because of the hard economic times. It is true that I am focused on the Green Movement but after all, I need to have a stable job and now, the economic and political crisis is huge and very hard to find a decent job. Sometimes, I get to design little interior design projects for some people but that does not satisfy me. I have a lot of motivation to work and sometimes feel my youth and energy is being wasted! nevertheless, you are right. 'Change' is the only constant and things will change soon towards better ends hopefully.

I am also glad sophia made a good impression despite being shy. Maybe, her shyness could sometimes be used as her advantage and she could use it to boost her charisma. After all, with a talent like Sophia's, she could well end up like Andy Warhol (in terms of art and her profession)

Also I wish a merry Xmas and wish you to spend valuable time at home and also hope that Santa would bring nice gifts for all of you:)))

Meanwhile, there was a big rally in the city of Qom (200 km south of Tehran) a few days ago and there will be two big rallies tomorrow and the day after tomorrow in tehran. I shall write the new letter for you after the rally.

Thanks again and a very big kiss.

December 27, 2009

Dear Martha,

I can't write too much now because internet speed is very low. Sunday, there was a massacre here. We did not expect such brutality on 'Ashoura' (A religious day). So far 27 people are confirmed dead. One of my friends from high school is amongst the victims. I had not seen him for more than 5 years but recognized his name in the list of victims. His body is missing! It was in hospital but now no one can find it. So, there hasn't been a funeral yet. His name was 'Sepehr' and he was an always smiling and laughing person! I could hardly open your my email today and I hope this email reaches you. I shall write a longer email later.

Happy New Year from Tehran's Bloody streets.

Oh, I am fine. Dont worry. I was very careful.

Kisses.



December 29, 2009

Dear Martha,

I cant write too much now because internet speed is very low. Sunday, there was a massacre here. We did not expect such brutality on 'Ashoura' (A religious day). So far 27 people are confirmed dead. One of my friends from high school is amongst the victims. I had not seen him for more than 5 years but recognized his name in the list of victims. His body is missing! It was in hospital but now no one can find it. So, there hasn't been a funeral yet. His name was 'Sepehr' and he was an always smiling and laUghing person! I could hardly open your my email today and I hope this email reaches you. I shall write a longer email later.

Happy New Year from Tehran's Bloody streets.

Oh, I am fine. Don't worry. I was very careful.

Kisses.

38 dead

~1100 arrested *

welcome 2010

* since Ashoura day
(Sunday)

January 2, 2010

Dear Martha,

Hi and hope you are doing well...

First, let me wish a Happy New Year to you, Doug, Sophia, my friends, and all those who read this letter. I hope 2010 would be a wonderful year for all of you.

Here, the situation is completely tragic. Last Sunday (on 'Ashoura', the most important religious day in Iran), they killed 38 people in the rally. They were shot straight to their head and some of them died when the military vehicle ran over people and crushed them underneath the car. One of my classmates from high school 'Sepehr' (which means 'Sky' in Persian) was killed. Also, Mousavi's niece (Ali Mousavi) was shot into his head and was secretly buried yesterday after midnight. But, the bodies of the rest of the victims (37 bodies) are stolen by the government. Their bodies are in some military base and the families are not allowed to bury and hold funeral for their beloved ones.. As I told you before, according to Islamic traditions, there should be special prayers on the 3rd, 7th, and 4th day of a person after his death. The government is afraid that these occasions might turn into protests and rallies against the government ($38 \times 3 = 114$) and the government cannot afford 114 rallies in just 40 days!

Even the dead bodies of our martyrs are stronger than this government? Isn't that true? However, from Sunday till today there had been rallies all over the city, and also in the cemetery over the grave of Ali Mousavi. Today, very big tanks have been brought to the city which has the ability to attack people with Acids and chemical liquids. It is very dangerous and it is unwise to go to streets. But these desperate attempts cannot stop the Green Movement. The Green movement will prevail. It is a matter of soon or late, but it is definite.

About 1100 people have been arrested since Sunday (almost all the known social activists, journalists, politicians, and) But the Green Movement does not depend on any individual. On the contrary, the more they arrest, the bigger the movement becomes. Next Sunday (7th of our martyrs) and on the 40th day of Ashoura martyrs, there would be rallies for all the victims, regardless if the government releases their bodies or not.

Dear Martha,

Sorry to write these horrific things to you today. I hope I haven't ruined your New Year. But I believe after all these crimes, it is time for the western governments to apply political pressure on the Iranian government. They could start by dismissing and closing Iranian Embassies in their countries.

And, students in the universities in Tehran and Mashhad have started their strike. They do not take their final exams for this semester.

Januray 5, 2010

WARNING! WARNING!

Iranian government is planning a very dangerous game. They are in the process of making a law according to which about 500 people of those arrested in the Ashoura day would be executed just few days. According to this law, those people attending a rally would be categorized as 'Mo-hareb' (which means as someone who has declared war on God!!!) and the penalty is execution! This is a human catastrophe and genocide, and will have dangerous consequences. 500 innocent people (who have only made peaceful demonstrations) would be killed and the world could not be just watching. If they execute these 500 people, it is an absolute duty for democratic countries to apply political pressure on the Iranian regime and give serious warning that such ruthless behavior is intolerable. There are number of things they could do:

1-Call the Iranian Ambassadors and give them serious warnings with threatening rhetoric.

2-Dismiss all Iranian ambassadors and diplomats and close Iranian Embassies.

3-UN general assembly should make an urgent meeting and pass a mandatory resolution (under chapter 7 of UN charter) and warn the Iranian regime not to mess up with its people. I am not sure, but this new law that the regime is passing might be just a bluff; but the international community should stand united against such genocide.

4- We expect the UN Security Council to have an urgent meeting. We do not expect anything from China and Russia (They are dictatorships as well). But we expect US, Britain, and France to sign the file which they have been given many years ago and which is being updated periodically. This file contains irrefutable evidence that the Iranian regime has committed enormous crimes against humanity before and after the elections in Iran. If these three countries sign the file, then it could go to the international tribunal in Lahe and the heads of Iranian regime could be tried and easily convicted and be listed as 'WANTED' for the INTERPOL police (Similar to the heads of Apartheid regime in South Africa and also to Milosevic, the Serbian dictator) .

5-Close all assets of all Iranian officials and commanders of Revolutionary guards in World Banks (this would be probably the most effective solution).

By doing so, the Iranian regime, I believe, will back off and think twice before killing those people. I ask the western countries to forget about the Oil in Iran and their economic contracts with Iranian regime (just for a while). This is an urgent human issue. They cannot just watch 500 being killed and just watch and do nothing. If the international community remain silent, it will encourage the Iranian regime to kill more with no worries!

Dear Martha

Even if they do so, the Green Movement will never stop, and will prevail at the end. They cannot scare us anymore. Green Movement is immune from any fear. But by losing 500 like this, it would be hard to convince people to remain non-violent. If people resort to violence, the entire country, but also the entire Middle East will go into a civil war and huge crisis. This law is not passed yet, but I hope by international pressure, the regime would cancel its melancholic plans. Unfortunately, the Iranian judiciary system is not independent from the state and simply follows the wishes and the desires of the dictator. Those people arrested in Ashoura are asked to prove that they are innocent!!! (In all countries, and even in the Iranian constitution, it is clearly stated that "All people are innocent unless proven guilty". But in the dictators' court in Iran, first they arrest people and then, they ask them to prove that they are innocent!!!

Anyway, today I going to translate the letter of 'Atefeh Nabavi'. She is 19 and was arrested in one of early protests in Tehran and sentenced to 4 years in 'Evin prison' (one of the most dreadful places in the world). Her mother met her last month and Atefeh gave her a long letter she had written in the jail and her mother published it in her weblog. I will translate some parts of this letter for you.

"From the place where I sleep, the view is only the [barbed] wire and a very small piece of the sky! They said that for the coming four years, that is going to be my only share of the sky. But it is alright. I don't care!! Anyway, here I don't look very often at the sky and I don't often think of my share of it. The earth [ground] is so full of grief and misery that it sweeps me inside and I make me forget that once upon a time, it was me who lived under this infinite sky, over this vast land, and next to these proud mountains.

Here, the life is an endless struggle for a little share of food and long lines for using the bathroom. My roommates are all addicted women, criminals, and some prostitutes. I do not know why they put me in such a cell. Had I shared my cell with another political prisoner, I could have at least been able to use decent language when I wanted to speak! I can't be idealistic

WARNING!

WARNING!

here. The time is so bitter and dark that 'bread' has defeated my 'Resalat' [duty to preach freedom].

Here, life is so primitive. Here, life is so virgin. Here, your happiness and grief is not because of the results of a rigged elections or a coup d'etat. Here, your happiness and grief is because of the life itself, it is for the sake of birth and death. Here, one day you are so sad because the addicted person who you used to share your cell with is executed while her last request was to be allowed to smoke a cigarette! But there are happy days too. When you hear that someone is forgiven and her death penalty is cancelled, then you experience the birth of hope once more. That day, the entire day these woman clap and dance for the birth of hope. This is the colony of misery, but after a while everything becomes normal. You get the feeling you have always been here. They scenes of women trying to commit suicide inside the jail do not shock you anymore after a short while. And the tortured bodies of those who return from the interrogation session just seem right and normal to you! And that, for sure, is the death of humanity!

Here, the cameras are everywhere. It reminds me of Michael Foucault's famous phrase: "Eyes that must see without being seen".

Anyway, it is sunset now and the crows are crying and crowing over the [barbed] wires of Evin. Wow! the pride and glory of this monster jail and torture centre is so easily broken and mocked by the crows! Here, the voice of hope could be heard from the crows, but also, I can hear the voice of hope from someone singing a sad song in the yard:

"The winter is over.... la la la I saw the face of the spring... la la la..."

Atefe,

Evin

26th of Azar 1388"

[this is the beginning of a song which people had made for Mousavi before the elections and used to sing it in the streets. It is a very hopeful song, but the rhythm is a bit sad. I will translate the entire song for you later.]

Also, 26th of Azar 1388 (on Iranian Calendar) would be 17th of December 2009.

I wish 2010 to be the year Atefeh and all other political prisoners are freed and live with hope and dignity "under this infinite sky, over this vast land, and next to these proud mountains".

The Green Movement

January 19, 2010

Dear Martha,

Hope you are fine...

Here, the situation is relatively calm. After the bloodshed in Ashoura, now it seems that Mousavi and Karubi are trying to engage the government in some sort of negotiations to at least stop the violence and give people some of their basic rights. Looking at the history of non-violent movements, one can find that the negotiation between the government and the opposition has always been a part of the movement. In some cases, negotiations were successful like in South Africa (when Mandela negotiated with the Apartheid regime from the prison), but in other cases the negotiations failed (for example the civil movement in Serbia during Milosevic). During these days, there is a lot material being published in green websites about non-violent movements, especially about Martin Luther King. The letter he wrote from the Birmingham prison is very relative to our situation right now. The Green movement in Iran does not have -and I believe does not need-a charismatic leader like Dr. King or Ghandi. Probably Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri who was the Greenest person in Iran and who was also known as the "The Father of Human Rights in Iran" and the "Green Spirit of Iran's democratic movement" could have been considered as a spiritual leader; because he was an Ayatollah who professed 'the separation of Religion and State' and paid a very heavy price for that (more than 20 years under house arrest and ...). But he died in December and his death created a big green wave in the very conservative and religious city of 'Qom' and paved the way for the radical protests in Ashoura.

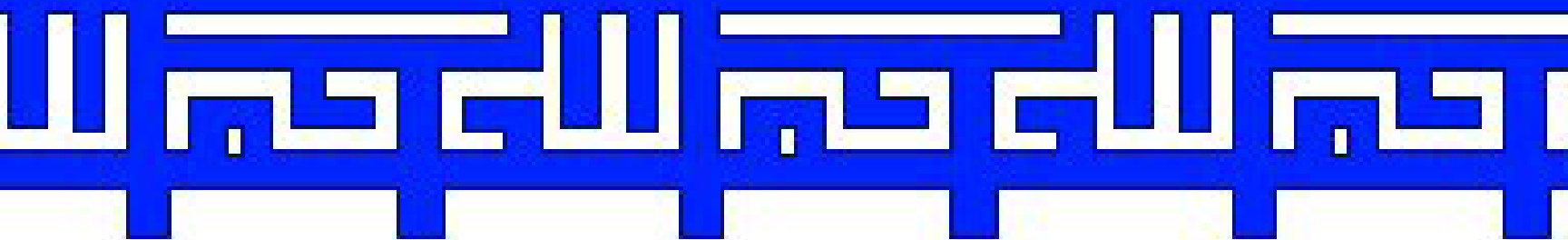
Our demands have now changed. Seven months ago, we simply wanted Ahmadinejad to come down and Mousavi to take over. But now, we do not care. We do not even want Mousavi to be president under the current political establishment. I even think and foresee that in near future, the green movement might pass from Mousavi and Karubi and chose new representatives for itself. Right now, Mousavi tries to reform this regime while we, as the main owners of the green movement, believe that this regime is UNREFORMABLE and the only way is to collapse this regime and chose our future political system based on a Free National Elections and Referendum under the supervision of international organizations. So, I hope the negotiations would fail because the Green movement is strong enough to overthrow the government in near future. The western governments should open

their eyes and at least once in their history, try to have an accurate reading of the events in Iran and understand that their future economic interests lie under their support for the green movement and not from their inaccurate political calculations.

Next big rally would be on February 11th and there would be a series of protests in the first ten days of February prior to the Feb 11th huge rally. February 11th would be a crucial day. After that, we would know whether our movement would remain a mere 'movement' or a full scale 'revolution'. I hope the second because we are all fired up and tired of political games. Although these days are relatively calm, but the resistance continues in different ways; the latest plan is to stop paying for water, electricity, gas, and telephone bills. This will start from the beginning of next month (of the Iranian Calendar).

Anyways, I shall write to you later...

where is the green?



February 1, 2010

Dear Martha,

How are you?

I had written to you before that the Iranian regime wanted to execute a large number of prisoners. Unfortunately, a few days ago, they executed two people; Mohammad-Reza Ali Zamani, and Arash Rahmani Pour joined the big list of green martyrs. They were totally innocent and their only crime was peaceful demonstration! My heart is filled with grief, and my eyes with tears. But, we are determined more than ever, and expecting the February 11th, to push the regime towards total collapse (and not any negotiations) through another huge rally.

The reaction towards these sickening executions in Iran has been huge. There are daily unrests in Tehran especially in front of the dreadful 'Evin' prison. But also, as a sign of protest, people are taking out their money from the banks to paralyze the economy and push the regime towards bankruptcy. Since a few days ago, there are very big lines in front of different banks and people are removing their money and changing it with other currencies (Euro and Dollar). Some people are also buying gold coins. As I mentioned, this action started after the executions, but there is an economic reason behind it too. Iran's economy is on the edge of collapse and in few months, we expect the value of 'Rial' (Iran's currency) to fall. So, buying Euro, Dollar, and Gold coins is an attempt to protect families' assets. The regime is very angry of this recent action. The banks don't have sufficient liquidity to return people's money. There have been a number of clashes in banks between the clients and revolutionary guards and as I have heard, an old man has been shot in Isfahan (500 km south of Tehran) when the bank refused to return him his money.

I had told you before that one of the main strategies of Green movement is to move peacefully towards a national strike. Yesterday, the World Bank issued a report in which the figures clearly show that Iran has been in a huge strike since seven months! This is not an obvious strike because an obvious strike would be too costly for the workers. Instead, workers have been prac-

ting 'white strikes' for months now. In 'White strikes' workers do go to work, but they intentionally work slowly to slow down the economic growth. The costs of maintenance in state-owned factories have increased 15 times in the last few months because workers intentionally damage the machineries to cause losses to the government. The World Bank report states that Iran's economic growth has fallen from 6.6% to only 0.9% after the green movement! And foreign investments have decreased 93% ever since!

So, I could conclude that Iran has been in the state of White Strike since almost seven months without being aware of it! (This is because we do not have a media, and now, the World Bank report has acted like a media!). Anyways, it is a bit hard to do all this. We are damaging our country's economy, but we have no choice. It is like wounding your body to get the poisonous blood out!

Meanwhile, the government has started a childish game. They are messing up with Iran's flag! Iran's flag has three horizontal strips; Green on top, White in the Middle, and Red at the bottom. Recently, in many government meetings and conferences, Iran's flag is printed in a way that the Green part of it is replaced with blue!! And the government refuses to apologize for these mistakes and insists that 'the blue color is Green'!!! They are even lying about colors! But this shows how frightened they are from the green movement that they even cannot stand the color Green in our flag! As a response to this disrespectful act, Tehran's walls are filled with graffiti of Iran's flag with a text next to its green part saying: "I am Green". Also, I am getting this feeling that after Feb 11th rally, the Green movement will pass from Mousavi and Karubi! So far, they were great and came along with people and defended people's rights. But it seems to me that after Ashoura Day, they inclined towards negotiating behind the scenes (though with good intentions). But as you have correctly pointed, "The green movement does not compromise". We do not give any other opportunity to this regime to 'try to reform itself'. This regime should collapse. There is proverb in Persian saying: "The Repent of Wolf is Death!". This regime will die. If Mousavi and Karubi are tired, scared, or have mistaken in their political analysis, and if they try to stop or delay the government's death through opaque talks, then it would be time for us to thank them for their efforts till now, and then, kiss them goodbye.

MOVE THIS ONE . IT IS FEBRAYR 2011

Dear Martha

I hope you are fine. Doug wrote to me that your surgery was successful and you are doing well.

I am just returning from the central Tehran. Demonstrations again! Thousands of people gathered in Azadi street chanting 'Down with the dictator'. Heavy police and Basiji presence. They did not let people gather together, they were beating people with electrical shockers and clubs. I heard gunshots, and saw a lot of teargas. But the crowd were everywhere. Most of the time marching in silence, but sometimes chanting 'Down with dictator'. Green signs all over! Mobiles don't work. sms shut down. many many arrested. Now that the night has arrived, the government has shut the electricity down in central Tehran. Basijis are attacking people in dark. They have light with them, but people cannot clearly recognize each other. It was getting very dangerous. Most of people are returning home. The weather is very cold tonight (-5 degrees Celcius).

Hope is creeping back. I don't know if this riot is going to be crushed like the ones in 2009 or if it is going to be continued and result in freedom? If we could just manage to gather together and sit down in the squares in millions! The guards and Basijis are very very aggressive, and weather is too cold. I don't know what's going to happen.

Take care



March 3, 2010

Dear Martha,

I haven't written to you in the past few weeks because I was basically thinking and restructuring my thoughts and expectations from the green movement. Last rally was on Feb 11th. Although the green protestors came to the street, but the result of that day did not match our expectations and for some people it was rather a disappointment. I believe that the government's excessive military presence and brutality in the streets was the main reason behind that. Yet, I also believe that we (the greens) also made some major mistakes in our tactics for the rally and also in underestimating the government's oppressing abilities. Ever since, there has been a lot of discussions and criticism coming from the main body of the green movement (in different social groups and also in the web) and we have all reached to the point that we seriously need to reconsider our old tactics and learn from the past mistakes.

We have so far had a kind of artistic obsession to come to streets in millions and create large green oceans and take long shots from it (a photographic obsession!). But this action has proven to be too costly and the benefits are not worthy of the risks; so, I think large rallies will not take place until we could make sure that the gap within the revolutionary guards are wide enough to prevent them from oppressing people (there are news that some of the guards are refusing to kill more people, but they are still a minority). But, the green people will not abandon the streets. The coming rallies would be small scale, diverse and neighborhood-based rallies. I could say that the site of protests will be moving from 'streets' to 'neighborhoods'. This way, it would be safer and less predictable for the government, but it would not be as large as it used to be so far. On March 8th (World Women's Day), there would be some small scale protests. This is to honor the Iranian Women who are doubtlessly the main spine, brain, heart, and soul of the green movement. Yet, the main action would be on March 17th, known as 'The Happy Wednesday' which is the last Wednesday of the year in the Iranian calendar (Iranian New Year is March 21st -the first day of the spring season), and this rally would be held at night. I do not know about the details yet, but since celebrating the 'Happy Wednesday' is a 2500 year-old Iranian tradition, I hope it would be quite large and overwhelming.


Also, I had told you before that Mousavi and Karubi had made some mistakes after Ashoura Day and I was quite mad on them (and wrote several fiery essays and sent them to different websites). I am glad that they have graciously accepted their mistakes and in their recent interviews have come back to the main track and attacked the government in harsher words. After Feb 11th, the government is celebrating what they describe as the "Death of Green sedition". But the green leaders have politely mocked the Supreme religious leader of Iran for his fake celebration and said that the green movement has certain demands (democracy, freedom, freedom of speech and belief, removal of discriminating practices against women, and ...) and that the movement will continue until these demands are met. (For many people, the complete collapse of the Islamic Regime and the separation of religion from the state is also a major demand!). Mousavi has mentioned that the main task of Green Movement at this time is "to enlighten"! I like the term. It sounds like we are inside a major movement in history. I think of major periods in history such as Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment, and Romanticism; and then I think the Green Movement could also be a historic period because it is in the process of developing a distinct style in life, politics, social affairs, philosophy and ethics, and especially in Arts and Literature. But our movement is only an eight month old baby. I wish I would live long enough to taste the fruits of the Green Tree.

Yesterday morning when I woke up, I found a CD in my balcony. It contained several photos and footages of the events in the past eight months, plus a large number of works of Arts (paintings, clips, poems, essays, cartoons, and ...) about the green movement. Although I try to keep myself updated, but I hadn't seen 90% of the contents of this CD before! So, I think those who are very active in the green movement are indeed trying "to enlighten" this way; by making these CDs and throwing it into the balconies, doorsteps, and also on the cars. One CD is sufficient to ruin the government's celebration! The "death of Green Sediton" is a dream which will never come true for this government. Although in the last three weeks there was no rally or protest, but today the Students in the Tehran University of Fine Arts broke the deadly silence and held a quick rally inside their campus.



what the news
didn't share and a

poem



March 19, 2010

Hope you are fine.

I am also fine here and expecting the New Year. Last Wednesday night (Happy Wednesday) was an important night for the green movement. All neighborhoods were the site of celebration of the last Wednesday of the year, and also, the site of protest to the illegitimate government. According to a 2500 year old tradition, Happy Wednesday is celebrated by setting fire and singing and dancing around it; symbolically asking the fire to give Life, Love, Light, and Luck for the New Year, and also burning all sadness away! People set fire in all neighborhoods; in large and small alleys, little public spaces, and also on the rooftops. Looking at Tehran from the mountains at its northern edge, one could see the entire city on fire, burning, and once more remember that Tehran is like a fire under ashes, and soon or late, the fire will burn this government. Given the sad events this year, there wasn't much singing and dancing last Wednesday night, but rather loud chants of "Death to Dictator" and also burning the pictures of the fake president and Iran's criminal supreme religious ayatollah. Since all neighborhoods and districts were the site of protest, the revolutionary guards couldn't do much, they just aimlessly roamed the empty main streets and squares! Although this event didn't get much coverage in the international media, but it was 'another birth' for the greens. We hadn't been able to protest the way we wanted since the massacre of Ashoura day, but Happy Wednesday provided the chance to end the year with hope and start a new year with even more hope. Now that I have mentioned the term 'another birth', I thought I should translate for you a poem with the same title from the Iranian female poet 'Forough Farokhzad' (1935-1967). Her poems were banned in Iran after the revolution, but thanks to the green movement, she is being rediscovered again and her poems are increasingly becoming a source of inspiration for the art and literature of the green movement; an art and literature growing under the skin of the society which now sounds more and more feminine than ever. Due to its feminine tonalogy, I may not be able to fully grasp the essence of these art works and poems, but they are very popular and inspiring these days amongst the followers of the Green way of hope.

Another Birth

The whole of my being is a dark verse
which will take you once after once
to the dawn of eternal growths and blossomings
in this verse, I sighed you, I sighed
in this verse
I merged you to the tree, and water, and fire

Life is perhaps
a lengthy street through which a woman passes every day; holding a basket
life is perhaps
a rope by which a man hangs himself, from a twig
life is perhaps
a child who returns from the school

Life is perhaps to ignite a cigarette in the fatigued distance between
two love makings
or perhaps the confused journey of a passerby;
who takes his hat away
and says to another passerby, with a meaningless smile: "happy morning"
Life is perhaps that blocked moment
when my stare devastates itself in the trembling of your eyes
and there is a feeling in this
that fuses me with the perception of the moon, and the reception of the dark

In a room as little as loneliness
my heart
as little as a love
stares at the easy excuses of her happiness;
at the beautiful fadings of the flowers in the vase
at the little tree you planted in our garden
and at the songs of the canaries
who sing to the extent of a window

Ah...

this is my share

this is my share

my share is

a sky taken away from me by hanging a curtain over the window

my share is to descend a forsaken staircase

and to reach into something of decay and exile

my share is a painful walk in the garden of memoires

and to depart my life within the grieving voice who says to me:

"Your hands,

I love them"

I will plant my hands in the garden

I will grow green, I know, I know, I know

and the swallows will lay eggs

in the hollow of my inky hands

I will hang earrings to my two ears

of two red twin cherries

and will adhere dahlia flower petals on my fingernails

There is an alley where

the boys who were in love with me

with the same messy hair, lean necks, and slim heights

still

think of the innocent smiles of a girl

whom one night

the wind took her away

There is an alley which my heart

has stolen it from the neighbourhoods of my childhood

This is the journey of a my form in the line of time, the dry time

who is impregnated by my form

- a form of conscious image-
who is coming back from the feast of a mirror

This is the way
someone dies
and someone stays

A fisherman will never hunt a pearl
from a disgraced stream pouring into a hole
I know a sad little fairy
who resides within an ocean
and who
slowly and slowly
plays her heart in a wooden flute
a sad little fairy;
who dies with a kiss, each night
and is reborn with a kiss, each dawn

Just a few points:

1- By the term 'sad little fairy', she is referring to herself, since she had a very miserable life. Forough is inarguably an ever shining star in Iran's contemporary poetry. She is often referred to as a person whose body cells were even made of poems! And she sacrificed her entire life for her poetry. She died in an early age (32 years old) in a car accident. You can get more information here:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forough_Farrokhzad

2- My translation can only communicate the meaning of the poem. But Forough's poems should be felt, not understood. The tone, and the hidden musical trajectory of this poem cannot be felt in the English translation, but I still hope you could enjoy it.

3- In the middle of the poem, she says "I will grow Green, I know, I know, I know". Dear Martha! If you could feel and understand the reason why she likes to grow 'Green', then you have felt and understood why our movement is 'Green'! Green is not just an arbitrary colour; it reflects the hopes, dreams, and expectations of an entire nation. This poem was made in 1950s, but even then, Forough desires to grow Green! That is why she is so alive now in the hearts and minds of the green people.

4- Reading the poem, you might feel that different parts of the poem are not related to each other! But that is only if you read it in English! In Persian, once reading the poem is over, one gets a strange feeling that everything is related, even though this relationship cannot be understood with rational thinking. As Forough herself says:

"A poem is like a road you travel along. While moving you see some things on the sides of the road, but you also miss a lot of things. If you travel along the same road again, you may miss the things you saw previously, but you will discover new things. That is why roads are not boring. Just like a road, you can travel through a poem for ever; each time discovering new things, and missing old ones!"

I do not know if my translation could catch this aspect. I would like to ask you and also everyone else who reads this letter (in case they wish) to make a comment so that I could know whether I should translate more of her poems for you, or whether I should suffice here.



April 28, 2010

Dear Martha,

1st of May is the World'd Workers Day, and since workers are also active in the green movement, there would be some limited protests held by workers in front of parliament and inside factories. Of course, we would have liked the protests to be stronger and more overwhelming, but given the brutality the regime has demonstrated so far (and also the questionable silence of western countries in condemning the Iranian regime!), small scale and limited protests would be helpful to 'keep the fire burning' until June 12th (the anniversary of rigged election) when another major big rally would be hopefully held.

It is important to say that unlike many workers movements in the world that are somehow 'leftist', the workers movement in Iran, fortunately, is not affected by leftist and communist thoughts and ideologies. In general, the green movement refutes any political system based on any 'ideology' (say communism, capitalism, islamism, ...). The purpose of the green movement is to give the Iranian citizen his/her human rights based on universal human values, and thus, a green government is the one who fully provides and protects human rights in Iran and defends national interests through respect and cooperation with the global community.

I cannot talk about Workers Day in Iran without mentioning the name 'MANSOOR OSANLOO', the most senior Iranian worker jailed by the regime for defending workers rights in Iran. He used to be a Bus Driver in Tehran and was elected to be the head of Bus Drivers' Syndicate. He is now in jail and reportedly under torture. I wish all workers in the world would have him in their minds at May 1st this year.

By the way, the Iranian government has decided that "Forough Farrokhzad' is not a poet"!!! (I know you are now laughing) Since the green people have shown such great interest in Forough's poems, (despite being banned), now the government has "Officially" declared that "Mrs Farrokhzad cannot be considered a poet according to the regulations of our great Islamic establishment and her name cannot be placed within the proud list of Iranian literature"! (I think I shouldn't make any comment on such statement by the government). Although it is pitty to see Iran being

ruled by such barbaric regime, but it is also quite a great feeling to know that our enemy (the regime) is very stupid!

So, lets read another poem from Forough called 'TUNED DOLL'. everytime you see the term 'One Could' in this poem, that is a sign of Forough's Objection to an existing situation. For example, the verse "one could find the faith in a worthless coin" is an objection to the way religion is practiced in Iran; a religion based on cheating, violence, and political interests! That is why the gov. is so angry with forough. (Let it be angry!)

Tuned Doll

More than this, Ah, yes
much more than this, one could remain silent

For long hours
with a gaze like the gaze of the dead; fixed
one could gaze at the smoke of a cigar
one could gaze at the shape of a cup
at a colorless flower of the carpet
at a fake line on the wall

One could
with dry hands
pull the curtain aside and see
that in the middle of the alley, it is raining fast
a child with his colorful kites
standing under an arch
a decayed wagon
leaving the empty square with noisy rush

One could remain there
next to the curtain, yet blind, yet deaf

One could scream
with a voice so deceitful, so strange:
"I love"

One could
in the conquering arms of a man
remain a beautiful and fit material
with a body like leather
with two big and hard breasts
one could pollute the innocence of love
in the bed of a drunk, a mad, a nomad

One could smartly disgrace
all strange mysteries
one could just solve crosswords
one could pretend to be happy with finding its useless answers
yes, a useless answer of five or six letters

One could bend, all her life
heads down, beneath a cold shrine
one could see God in an unknown grave
one could find the faith in a worthless coin
one could decay in the chambers of a mosque
like an old saint

One could just be like a zero
having always the same result
in minus, plus, and multiples
One could suppose people's eye in one's grudge
like a pale button of an old shoe

One could drain in one's hole, like water

One could hide the beauty of a moment with shame
at the bottom of a box
just like a black quick ridiculous photo

One could hang, one day
the picture of a condemned, or defeated, or crucified man
in the empty frame

One could be like a tuned doll
and see one's world with two glass eyes
one could remain in a doll box
with a body filled with hey
and sleep within the doll dress
one could scream
with any disgusting push of any hand
and say with no reason:
"Ah, I am so happy"



May 4, 2010

Dear Martha;

Thank you for sending me the link for the article in which some very famous Hollywood directors and actors have expressed their solidarity with Jaafar Panahi (Iranian filmmaker jailed because he was about to make a film of the events after the coup d'etat in Iran). I read the article with anti-filtering software. It is very encouraging to see people like Robert De Niro (one of my favorite actors) supporting the green movement. I wish the heads of states in the western world would at least learn from these celebrities.

About the Workers' Day here, despite heavy patrolling and military presence in the streets, the workers in Tehran and few other cities like Caspian, Shiraz, and Tabriz managed to hold a rally. Especially Syndicate of Tehran Bus Drivers' chanted 'Death to Dictator' and some of them have been arrested. The same day, the fake president secretly (!) went to Tehran University without prior notice. He went straight into the conference hall and some Basijis (from outside university) also went inside the Hall and locked the door so that they could hold a quick conference. This was supposed to be a secret event only to produce a program and show it at night in the state TV so that the government could show off that Ahmadinejad has gone to the university without any protests and that everything is normal! But the students found out and attacked the Conference hall and chanted 'Death to dictator'. Ahmadinejad then escaped from the emergency exit and escaped the university. Students are now very angry and have been holding a three-day strike in the campus. They have issued a statement condemning Ahmadinejad's presence inside university. Part of the statement says: "University is a place for knowledge, Science, and Art. It is also the main place for free-thinkers and supporters of democracy. We condemn the presence of the enemy of art, science, and knowledge into our university and demand that he and all his illegitimate cabinet should never put their filthy steps into the sacred land of our campus."

Dear Martha,

It is very unfortunate to see that the US government has issued a Visa for Ahmadinejad to go to New York and have a speech at the anti-nuclear conference in New York. Every time the US or any

other country issues a Visa for him, it is an insult to our people because Ahmadinejad is not the president of Iran.

It is such a shame to see the winner Nobel Peace Prize being so supportive (practically) of an illegitimate regime while threatening the Iranian people of using "atomic bomb" against them, "if necessary"

May 30, 2010

Dear Martha,

Hi and hope you are fine. Sorry for not staying in touch. I have been traveling lately working as a freelancer on some projects. So, you are in bcn! Great! How is it there? Say hi to all my friends on my behalf.

A lot has happened here. But it is the same story. Three weeks ago, the government hanged 5 political prisoners (4 men and 1 woman). They were all from the Kurdish ethnic minority from west Iran. Three of them were journalists, one of them human rights' activist, and one of them (Farzad Kamangar) was a teacher at a primary school who taught his students different ways to resist dictatorship through their lifestyle. He has become a national icon now and the day he was executed (9th of May) was celebrated as 'TEACHERS' DAY' by the green activists. After these executions, 5 provinces in west Iran went on a three-day strike but due to heavy pressure of the government, the rest of provinces couldn't hold strikes and there were only small scales rallies and protests.

But the story which has unfolded lately is about 'Majid Tavakoli' (the same student who made a speech in the polytechnic university on the 'Students' Day'). You remember. Right? He was held for 4.5 months in the solitary and during all this time, he wasn't allowed to see his family or even contact them. Then, he was tried without any access to an attorney. He was asked to defend himself in the court all alone. The Judge (who was also acting as the prosecutor) accused Majid of 'insulting' the supreme religious leader by calling him "Mr. Dictator". Majid replied: "I didn't insult him by calling him 'dictator'. I was only 'describing' him". The judge asked: "Why did you insult our president Mr. Ahmadinejad?" Majid replied: "Who? Ahmadinejad? I don't even think of this creature, yet alone insulting him." The judge became so angry and stood up to beat Majid! Then, he sentenced Majid to 8.5 years in prison for his 8.5 minute-long speech! Majid was then taken to Evin prison. But even from there, he started writing some essays and somehow (I don't know how!) pass them out of the prison to be published in green websites. It was Majid who suggested 9th of May to be called 'teachers' day' from a letter from the prison. 10 days ago, he wrote an essay titled "For Change". It is a 20-page manifesto in which he gives

hope to people to continue their resistance and refusal against dictatorship through non-violent activities. He pays his respect to green leaders but also politely criticizes their mistakes and advises Mousavi and Karubi to be "more decisive" in their leadership. He offers a lot of new and creative ways of organizing, escalating, and fostering the green movement. He wrote this letter during his days in the solitary in his totally dark room.

Martha! This essay is very genius and Majid has literally acted as a green leader. One could say that gradually, next to Mousavi and Karubi, a new green leader is evolving in the prison. After this essay was published, Majid was brutally beaten up and send back to solitary again. The interrogators told him that because of this letter, they will kill his family (Majid's father is dead, his mother and brother live in Shiraz). After being threatened, Majid went on a dry hunger-strike (he wouldn't eat or drink) and demanded to see his family and make sure they are fine. He also demanded to be moved back to the general section of the prison and not in the solitary. He continued his hunger-strike for 7 days. After 3 days his tongue got so dry that he lost his ability to speak. After 5 days he fainted and was moved to prison infirmary. After 7 days, he gained consciousness and threatened the government -in a brief note- that if he dies in the prison, the government would have to face "unexpected consequences". Finally, the government succumbed. He was removed from the solitary and allowed to see his mother and brother. Then, he broke his strike. Today, in another letter from the prison, Majid encouraged people to commemorate 12th of June (the anniversary of rigged election) and "to shout out loud that we will only be satisfied with a total regime change". Since now Majid is a green leader, the government doesn't dare to kill him.

Here, you can see a picture of Majid (for last year)

<http://www.chrr.us/IMG/arton7229.jpg>

But the question remains: during all this time of his hunger-strike, why the UN and democratic countries didn't mention one single word to support him?? Why??

Hi Martha!

I guess I am at facebook.

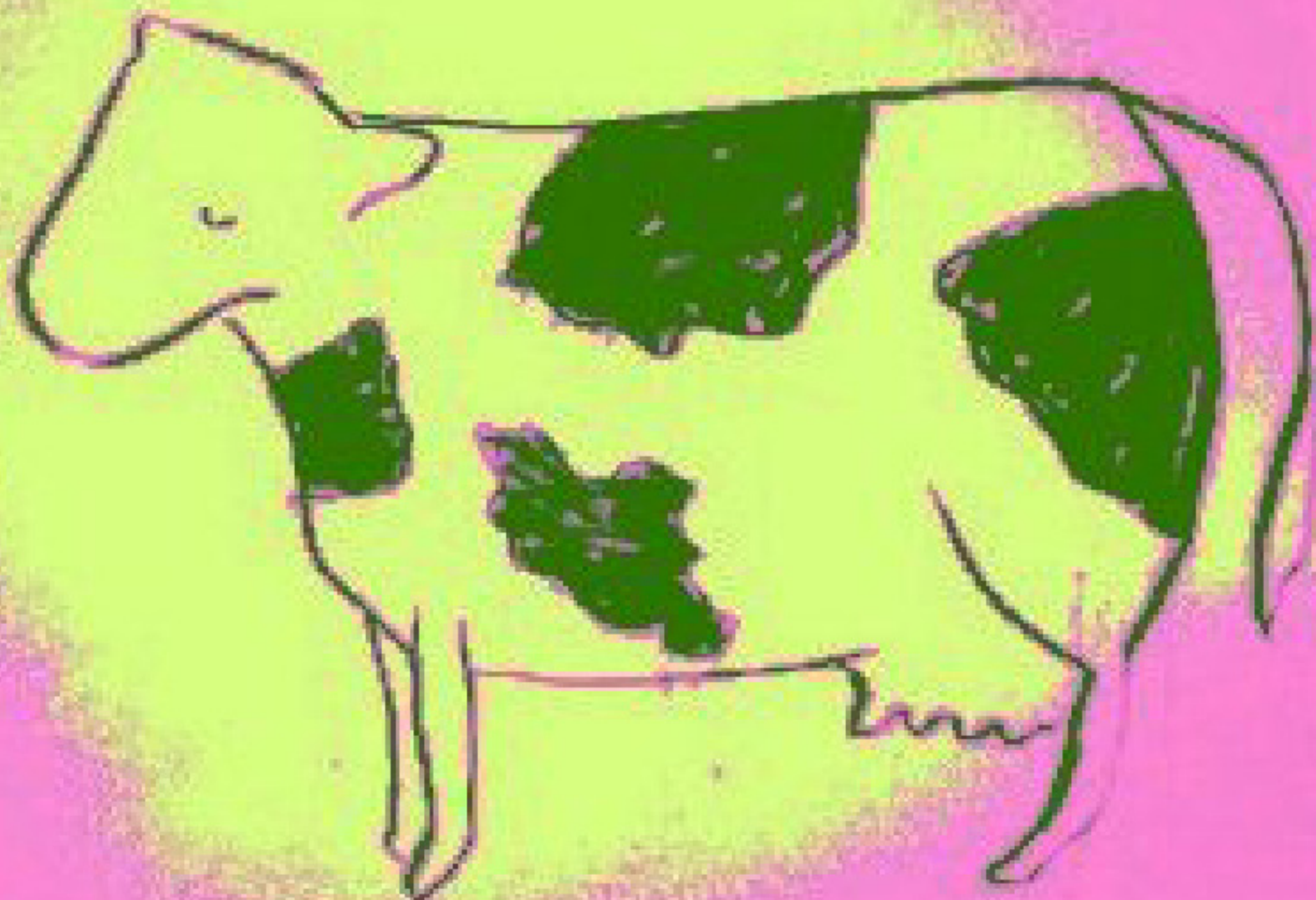
Facebook is still blocked, but I am recently working in an an office, and became friends with the IT guy. And he enters a code which could override the filtering of the government on a daily basis.

So, I guess as long as I am working here, I can access my facebook (only at the office, and not at home).

It has been more than a year since I logged into my facebook. I feel good, but also kind of strange. So, I guess I am going to be quite silent in the beginning and then gradually become an outloud facebook guy again.

I sent you a message at facebook, but I guess I couldn't send it due to low speed of the internet. The IT guy is telling me that sometimes I can only view the contents of facebook, but couldn't comment. I don't know, but it is very good to be back after Spain's championship last night.

kiss



September 4, 2010

Dearest Martha; thank you for such a beautiful and encouraging email. Thank your relative on my behalf and say that I highly appreciate her interest and involvement. You are right Martha! I am quite disappointed and tired, and feel that our efforts have not given our desired results. I am basically frustrated with two issues:

1-Western countries' reluctance towards human rights in Iran. I understand that each country should be after its own national interests, but human rights should also be regarded as a fundamental value. Unfortunately, western countries only impose economic sanctions on Iran which only hurt Iranian people. It is very unfair to punish Iranian people for the bad behavior of Iranian government while we have shouted out loud that the existing Iranian regime does not represent us. Today a friend of mine said something interesting to me. He said: "Right now, Iran is like a dying cow. The western countries are rushing to milk this cow as much as they can without any attempt to cure it". (This is the first time I see someone using the term "cow" to describe Iran, because in legends, Iran is known to be a 'female CAT'!)

2- I am also angry with Mousavi and Karubi (especially Mousavi) because I think they were not able to capitalize on such a huge asset of green people. Their lack of decisiveness, perhaps, could not convince the global community that green movement could be an alternative for the existing regime! But anyway, in a country like Iran - which is used to dictatorship - I still respect Mousavi and Karubi for standing on people's side. (We have to keep in mind that they are under huge pressure and their lives are in danger)

Dear Martha, Although I do not send letters anymore, but the green movement still continues. There have been several hunger strikes in the jail (more than 20 journalists and political prisoners went on a 16-day hunger strike). Several strikes by workers, ... But no more demonstrations at the streets (because it is too dangerous and useless). Yesterday, the Basijis attacked Karubi's home. Killed his body guard. set his kitchen on fire and burnt all his books. beat up his eldest Son (hussein). swore at his wife and broke the glasses of the cars of his neighbors. Iran is now the only country in the world in which the neighbors of the opposition leader do not have any security at their homes!!!

I have less hope than the same time last year because I am afraid a war might be inevitable. But this year is the year of 'patience'. hopefully better days shall arrive after hard days.

Dear Martha, you can publish this letter if you like. I will try to write some more letters every now and then, but I cant promise to write regularly because there is a deadly fatigue in the atmosphere which has gotten into me. kisses

Dear Martha,

Dear Mr. Mayor,

September 9, 2010

Dear Martha, although I had told you that I would not be able to write frequently, yet today, I saw the letter that the mayor of rome had written to the mayor of new york. This letter says it all. amazing! The dictator who rules Iran is planning to visit New York city pretty soon, and this letter is indeed, the true voice of Iranian people which has been expressed in the letter of the mayor of Rome. Below is the text of the letter translated into English:

Rome August 27, 2010

Mr. Michael Bloomberg, Honorable Mayor of New York City

Dear Mr. Mayor, News about the scheduled visit of the president of the religious dictatorship in Iran to New York City to attend the UN General Assembly meeting in September has saddened democratic and freedom-loving forces everywhere. Over the past year, Iranian cities have witnessed millions of Iranians declaring to the world that they reject the religious dictatorship in its entirety and seek democracy and freedom instead. The regime responded to these demonstrations with widespread arrests, torture, rape and execution of dissidents and political prisoners as "mohareb" (enemies of God). Daily executions, hanging of juveniles, and medieval sentences like stoning have been a source of anguish for the world public opinion. Last year, the UN General Assembly vehemently condemned systematic human rights violations in Iran. This was the 56th such condemnation by a UN body thus far.

Meanwhile, the clerical is pressing ahead with its nuclear weapons program and is defying UN Security Council resolutions in this regard. As the Iranian people reject the clerical regime in its entirety, Tehran's insistence on obtaining nuclear weapons and exporting terrorism and fundamentalism to other countries in the region have triggered a serious regional and international crisis. Accepting the president of such a regime at the UN General Assembly is unacceptable. He

must be put on trial at an international tribunal instead for committing many of the gruesome crimes against the Iranian people.

Perhaps you remember that when Ahmadinejad visited Rome in June 2008 on the occasion of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization summit, in a courageous decision, Rome's city hall turned off the lights at its square for 15 minutes in protest to the visit. This act of protest was warmly received by the residents of the city.

Dear Colleague, We are certain that the overwhelming majority of the people of New York and yourself personally are highly dismayed by the presence of a brutal dictator in New York City and the UN headquarters, which was erected as the symbol of world freedom and solidarity. This is especially true since this visit and others like it are exploited by the Iranian regime in order to intensify its suppression of the Iranian people and export of terrorism and fundamentalism abroad. Therefore, please allow us to urge you to take a stance against Ahmadinejad's visit to New York City in the strongest terms in a sign of solidarity with the Iranian people and their chants for democracy and human rights. Please enact measures to deprive Ahmadinejad and his delegation in New York of city resources.

Mayor of Rome Gianni Alemanno

THANK YOU!



February 14, 2011

Dear Martha

I hope you are fine. Doug wrote to me that your surgery was successful and you are doing well. I am just returning from the central Tehran. Demonstrations again! Thousands of people gathered in Azadi street chanting 'Down with the dictator'. Heavy police and Basiji presence. They did not let people gather together, they were beating people with electrical shockers and clubs. I heard gunshots, and saw a lot of teargas. But the crowd were everywhere. Most of the time marching in silence, but sometimes chanting 'Down with dictator'. Green signs all over! Mobiles don't work. sms shut down. many many arrested. Now that the night has arrived, the government has shut the electricity down in central Tehran. Basijis are attacking people in dark. They have light with them, but people cannot clearly recognize each other. It was getting very dangerous. Most of people are returning home. The weather is very cold tonight (-5 degrees Celcius).

Hope is creeping back. I don't know if this riot is going to be crushed like the ones in 2009 or if it is going to be continued and result in freedom? If we could just manage to gather together and sit down in the squares in millions! The guards and Basijis are very very aggressive, and weather is too cold. I don't know what's going to happen.

Take care

2009



2011

February 15, 2011

Dear Martha

I am glad that you are doing better. Thanks to doug to have made me feel that you surgery was easier than it actually was! because otherwise I would have become very worried. (something I cannot afford at the time being). Two people were killed in yesterday's demonstrations. One of them was a student at Tehran Fine arts university. Tomorrow early morning a mass demonstration is planned to start at Tehran's fine art university main gate. I do not know if it could hold up. Sure there will be Basijis and guards, but we will do what we have to do. Today central Tehran was also full of people who chanted 'down with the dictator'. I wasn't there, but on my way back home I saw six tanks burnt in the street. Special forces are everywhere pointing gun at people. Very Scary.

Today also workers in Oil refineries started a strike but were detained by the guards. Now telephones and sms is shut down. internet too slow. I'd love to talk to you soon. Lets talk once the telephone lines are back to normal.

By the way, feel free to post my letters the way you like. I personally believe that Green Movement's demonstrations in 2009 were in fact a background for Egypt's uprising this year. And in return, Egyptian's success in removing their dictator was a trigger to the uprising in Iran again. But you have to know that Mubarak was just a political dictator, but egyptians were free in their personal lives. Iran's supreme religious dictator is a person who kills, tortures, and rapes. He interferes in the tiniest detail of people's personal lives. We are talking about a totally different level of dictatorship in Iran. The reality is harsh. So harsh that it is even unbelievable for us. It cannot be described in words.

One thing that is different in these demonstrations from the ones in 2009, is that this time people seem way more thoughtful. 2009 riots were more a matter of passion and enthusiasm. This time is more of thoughtfulness and wisdom. Sure there is a huge level of anger in people, but in their faces one can see more wisdom; a wisdom which could only be gained after surviving an intolerable suffering.

A lot of love.



February 18, 2011

Dear Martha

Thanks for spreading my letters. I feel better these days. Last year was a very difficult year for me. Perhaps the worst in my entire life. Imagine someone trying to choke you for an entire year, and you somehow manage to survive. After a whole year of suffering, I am tired and do not have all the energy I used to possess. I am tired all the time. Everyone else is like that. How could you have any motive for life in a country in which one man is hung every 8 hours? Even if you travel and escape, the reality remains the same. 3 men are executed everyday on the average and many others tortured and raped. And the world is not reacting the way it should. The entire world stands on the wrong side of history. Anyway, forget about it.

But these days, some hope could be seen in the horizon. I do not know if I am hallucinating, or is it the voice of hope approaching from far away? I have learnt to be cautious in hoping. You have no idea what a devastating effect despair could have on your body and soul.

The coming Sunday a mass demonstration is planned all over the country. Another day for Greens to roar, and for government to wipe off the "green microbes" as they describe us. It is true. We are microbes that cannot be cured. We will kill this regime. How long it would take I don't know. But it shall happen.

The two victims of February 14th demonstration were called 'Saneh Jaleh' and 'Mohammad Mokhtari'.

Saneh was a young student and an activist. The government claims he was a basiji and that the greens have killed him!!! But the truth is that he was a political activist who came from the city of Paveh (a city inhabited by Kurds -an ethnic minority group- who have been oppressed by the government in the past 32 years). His Brother 'Ghaneh' had an interview and said that his brother was an anti-government activist. Ghaneh is now detained and under pressure to deny his interview in the state TV!

'Mohammad' was also a political activist in the web. His last post on facebook prior to the demonstrations was:

"Oh God! Make me die while standing. I am tired of being seated in humiliation"

He was shot in head while standing and chanting 'Down with the dictator'.

A lot of love.



February 25, 2011

Dear Martha

What a brilliant idea. Exhibiting the letters in a local gallery, making postcards,... are all very interesting and useful. Thanks for thinking about me, and getting emotionally involved. Your emotions and feelings are valuable to me, and are the greatest help for me and my friends. I did not intend to make you cry. I know you are very busy and I did not want to put extra emotional pressure on you my dear.

I have spoken to my friend and he is preparing a card for me so that I could call you in a safe mode. You know that phones are controlled here, and words such as 'Sabz (green)', 'tazahorat (demonstrations)', 'Azadi (freedom)' are monitored and could cause problems. But I will call you in a safe mode once I get the card.

About your question, the official start of green movement cannot be exactly indicated because it has always been under the skin of the city, but I think June 12th, 2009 was the day that it demonstrated itself in the streets with the slogan 'where is my vote?' It continued in the forms of mass demonstrations throughout 2009, and the last mass demonstration took place in 27 of December 2009 (Ashoura day in which more than 100 people were killed on the streets and many thousands arrested. Then the movement went into a pause and a very very hard year started, full of pain and despair.

But the movement reemerged in the streets on February 14th 2011 (Valentine's Day:))!!), and lets hope it continues till victory. Last demonstration on Sunday (Feb 21) was big but unfortunately about 700 people arrested (mostly students). Two people killed again (a girl in tehran, and a man in Shiraz).

People are again chanting on the roof tops every night. Last year people used to say (Allahu akbar=God is great), but this year the slogan is different. Now people say: 'Zende bad Azadi=Long Live Freedom' and 'Pish be sooye Iran-e-Azad=Towards a Free Iran'.

Kisses



March 6, 2011

Dear Martha

I am alright, and waiting for the coming tuesday for next mass demonstration. Activists in Green movements have declared that for five consecutive weeks, there will be a mass demonstration every Tuesday. Last Tuesday, the protestors demanded the freedom of Mousavi and Karoubi. As you might know, both of them are missing! No one knows where are they. They have not been officially arrested or charged? Their neighbors say that they have been hijacked midnight, and there aren't any news of them since two weeks. The regime is abusing the situation in Lybia. Since Ghaddafi is now bombing his own people and the whole world are casting their eyes on Lybia (which is quite logic and legit), the regime have hijacked the green leaders to minimize media coverage and World attention on this issue. However, for me it does not matter. Mousavi and Karubi aren't different from many thousands political prisoners who are being raped and tortured on daily basis. We should all demand the freedom of all political prisoners including Mousavi and Karubi. The coming Tuesday (March 8th) is the World Woman's Day, and the demonstration is organized by women activists (I am quite surprised because all known women activists are now in jail, yet we still see statements by women activists!). The aim is to demand equal rights for women. I think this is very important, because we shouldn't forget these main issues (such as equal rights for women, ethnic minorities,) in the midst of political volcanos.

Anyway, these days Tehran is very cold and snowing all the time. The new phenomenon this year are the 'Green Snowmen'. People are making snowmen everywhere (in the parks, quiet streets, gardens, ...). These snowmen have their hands showing a 'V' sign and are all smiling. On their body, it is written 'Jonbesh-e-Sabz = Green Movement', and their eyes and hair is made of green leaves. I will try to send you a photo if I could. But in the middle of all pressure, just looking at these happy smiling green snowmen fills our hearts with joy and delight, and certainly revives 'hope' in our otherwise decaying hearts.

Boos

Hope

for

1390

March 20, 2010 The end of 1389

Dear Martha

Tommorrow is the Iranian New Year (1390). and I am leaving to the north tonight, and I will stay there till next week. I badly need this vacation because I had been under lots of pressure lately, but I will feel better after this vacation. I may not have access to facebook or internet there (in small cities there aren't filterbreakers,...). Just wanted to wish you a happy Iranian new year. After all you are Iran's green ambassador, and I feel I should share this new year with you and all other friends who have loved and supported me.

As you know, 1389 was the worst year of my life, but I am optimist and already feel that 1390 is a great and unforgettable year for me. Amen.

Many kisses my lovely Martha.



May 1, 2011

Dear Martha

You might wonder why I am not sending emails anymore. Well, because the situation has been so badly oppressed, and the economic situation has worsened in such a way that there is no more energy left to think or make a move for the green movement. Although today, there were very small, dispersed and spread protests at different cities for the world labour day. Within the government itself there are rumors of conflict between Ahmadinejad and Iran's supreme religious leader. The war of snakes!

The police has attacked and removed satellite dishes from the rooftops. It has been two weeks we do not have satellite (maybe tomorrow we will secretly put them back). Internet speed is very low and even filter breaker softwares such as vpn and ultrasurf do not work either (that is why I cant access my facebook for the past few days). But, when the government cracks down on media so aggressively, it means that something serious is happening and that they feel threatened. We do not know what's up because we've been cut off from free news. Its like a big jail here. take care dear

By the way, could you please give me armando's email.

Thanks

Boos.



May 19, 2011

Dear Martha

Thanks Martha. I saw my previous letter spreading. You are wonderful. I will try to write a letter for the second anniversary of Green movement on June 12th.

I am ok here. Although I feel that the society is so badly oppressed that everyone is suffering and struggling. Everyone is somehow frustrated, internally aggressive (not violent). As if everyone is taking revenge from someone or something. This is an epidemic. Sometimes I think that reading books - one page per day :)))) - and sleeping are the best parts of my life. I have had very volatile and unstable relationship at work and with my girlfriend lately. Despite so overwhelmingly loving each other, 'Sima' and I have split. As if our souls cannot afford the presence of 'love' within this suffocating situation. Obviously, the situation is harder for women. I do not know. It is very hard to explain this epidemic. Maybe I should call it 'fear of happiness'.

At work, despite heavy load and stress, I am giving priority to my health and have adopted a different style of working from previous year. This society is unable to appreciate responsibility. I am trying to take everything easy while retaining my professional integrity. (And it has worked -at least for me!)

I am glad to have retained good relationship with my family, but I could see lots of families collapsing due to financial difficulties that this government has imposed on them.

Dear Martha

It is alright. I am aware of the difficulties of the moment. I am trying to keep my mental balance and become stronger. These stuff cannot defeat me. Life is a wonderful thing. It keeps regenerating itself. Sad days will pass and happy days will come. Strangely, I feel good.

Take care.



July 20, 2011

Dear Martha

It has been more than two months that I haven't written to you. Well, it is the same story, but in the last few weeks, a number of individuals have been either murdered or detained by the government, which in itself, is a witness that the green movement, though weakened, is still alive. As I going to briefly explain below, most of them were artists, journalists, or athletes.

1-Nasser Hejazi: is the legendary former goalkeeper of Iranian football (soccer) national team and former headcoach of Esteghlal FC who was well known for being outspoken and anti-government. He was diagnosed with cancer two years ago, and the doctors had told him that he only had 2-3 months left. But, he resisted for two years, and was able to recover and almost defeat the fatal disease. Doctors were optimistic that we could fully recover in few weeks. Then, in a live interview on the state TV, he unexpectedly, bravely, and openly criticized the government and said that the illegitimate regime is responsible for all the miseries Iranians are going through. He then added: "People of Iran! Have faith in freedom, and resist! You can defeat this regime the same way I am defeating my disease!" It was a shock, and nothing could be done since it was a live interview. Two days after this interview, he went to hospital for check up and to take his injections. According to his son -Atila- when he came back home, and while watching the game of Esteghlal FC (his beloved team), he lost consciousness, and went to coma, and passed away few days later. It is widely believed that he was poisoned in his last visit to the hospital because a few minutes after his death, the Revolutionary gaurds took his body and did not let any autopsy as demanded by his family. This is indeed a murder of the worst kind. His funeral- held in the national stadium- and attended by more than 200,000 people soon turned out to be the largest demonstration since February 2011. His body was kidnapped by state helicopters and buried at a remote place in the absence of his family. Nasser Hejazi, who was known as the "Legend" in his life time, is now celebrated as the "Green Legend".

2-Haleh Sahabi: A well-known journalist and political activist was detained and jailed in 2009 demonstrations. Her father -Ezzat Sahabi (also a veteran political activist)- died few weeks ago. She was given a two-day leave to attend her father's funeral. We were all surprised that finally a bit of mercy has come to the Iranian judicial system, and a political prisoner is given a two-day leave! But during her father's funeral, the bassijis attacked the ceremony and killed her with a fatal Punch to her heart (she had a weak heart)! State newspapers she died because of grief! It is now clear that the two-day leave was only given to her to have her killed outside of jail, and hence, avoid the scandal of killing a prisoner.

3- Reza Hoda-Saber: was a journalist detained and jailed in 2009 demonstrations. As a sign of protest to Haleh Sahabi's murder, 16 political prisoners went through hunger strike. Unfortunately, Reza Hoda-Saber could not withstand, and died on the 12th day of hunger-strike. Iranian regime refused to offer appropriate treatment to him and let him die in his cell.

4- Ruhollah Dadashi: Known as Iran's strongest man, and world champion in powerlifting was killed a few days ago in a staged street fight (though he was known to be very timid and avoided fights at all costs). He was in the process of making a hidden charitable institution to financially aid the families of green prisoners who have been plunged into deep poverty by the government.

5-Maryam Majd: A sport journalist who intended to travel to Germany to cover the women's soccer world cup was detained in the airport under the accusation of "jeopardizing national security and disparaging Islamic values"! Nothing is known about her whereabouts.

6- Pegah Ahangarani: A young talented actress (Known as "The girl in sport shoes" referring to the successful movie she once played in) was also traveling to Germany to watch women's world cup and make her commentaries in her personal weblog was also arrested under the same charge. Nothing is known about her whereabouts as well. Women (and also men) are systematically raped in the jail, and being a pretty young lady (aged 25), there are fears about her fate. Her latest comedy "No Men allowed" is now on the screen in Tehran, and once the lights go off, people chant "death to dictator" in the cinemas.

7-Marzieh Vafa-Mehr: Also an actress who is arrested for no known reason!

There is also news that in few days a number of artists, actors, and actresses, such as Fatima Motamed-Arya will be arrested for having expressed their support for green movement.

In the past two months, 421 people have been executed in Iran without any trial or access to at-

torney, Nasrin Sotudeh, a lawyer who has protested against these executions is arrested. She is sentenced to 11 years in jail, but the world is just watching!

Iran is now a disintegrated nation in which no collective activity of any sort is possible. Artists and athletes have the capacity to bring people together and give them some hope. That's why, I believe, the latest wave of arrests have been targeted on them.

Accidentally, all of these events have taken place on Mondays of the past two months, marking the era of green Mondays in Iran's contemporary history.

Take care dear Martha